

Voting When the Election Has Already Been Decided

Daniel 4:28-37; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 11-1-2020

1. Vote with proper concerns and priorities.

We need to make sure our priorities as Christians do not get reversed or left out altogether as we get to the voting booth.

- Be concerned about the glory of God.** (1 Corinthians 10:31) To be concerned about the glory of God is to be concerned about what honors and pleases God. Our voting should be an expression of that desire.
- Be concerned about the freedom/progress of the gospel.** (1 Corinthians 9:23) Does the party platform and their candidate that we are voting for *most* strongly and consistently uphold the right to the free exercise of religion and to assembly and to free speech?
- Be concerned about obedience to foundational/Biblical morality.** (1 Corinthians 7:19; Exodus 20:13-15; Proverbs 14:34) Does the party platform and their candidate that we are voting for *most* strongly and consistently uphold the protection of all human life from the womb to the tomb? *most* strongly and consistently uphold the legal definition of marriage as between one man and one woman? *most* strongly and consistently uphold the right to personal property?
- Be concerned about Biblical justice.** (Leviticus 19:9-19a) Does the party platform and their candidate that we are voting for *most* strongly and consistently uphold the Biblical view of justice which calls for the equal treatment of all under the law and the equal opportunity for all within reasonable standards?
- Be concerned about future generations.** (2 Kings 20:16-19) Is our voting taking into consideration the implications of present decisions on future generations?
- Be concerned about the nation/city/place you live in.** (Jeremiah 29:7) Am I voting so that I can bring about good, the most good possible, here and now, for those in my city, state and country?
- Be concerned about the good of all people.** (Galatians 6:10) Am I voting so that the good of all people will be impacted as much as possible instead of just voting for my private interests?

2. Vote with a 'big picture' or 'package' perspective.

We need to see the 'big picture' to appreciate what we are really dealing with! Recognize that your vote is a vote for:

- **A Person or Personality (1 Kings 14:16)** Your vote is for a person, but it is not *just* for a person. So, with that qualification, *how are we to think about the character of the person being considered?* The character argument alone is problematic because usually all candidates lack the character we wish they had in many ways. The question is whether the candidate will try to uphold our Constitution and work in light of his party's platform. And this brings us to the next point.
- **A Platform or Policies (Jeremiah 25:9)** We can and should look at leaders, not simply in terms of character, but also in terms of party platform or policies or practice (what they actually do or say they will do).
- **A Multitude of People to Be Appointed (1 Corinthians 12:14)** We aren't just voting for one person but for many people who will form the 'body' or 'administration' of this particular person. Their contribution has to be taken into account as well in light of all the appointments the president or governor will make.
- **A Perspective on the Role of Government (1 Peter 2:13-14)** The different views of government depend on the continuum between freedom and safety (protection). Are we voting for a government philosophy that sacrifices freedom for the promise of safety or that seeks to preserve freedom as much as possible?
- **A Product or Vision for the Future of Our Country (Proverbs 29:18)** What kind of vision for our country are we voting for? What party platform are we voting for? Do we know what it is?

3. Vote without fear.

- Pray for conditions that are best for the progress of the gospel. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)
- Seek to do good for your community and state and country. (Daniel 1:4)
- God is sovereign and He will put into office whom He chooses. (Daniel 4:36)
- Nothing can prevail against Christ's Church. (Matthew 16:18)
- God will keep His promises and fulfill His purposes. (Isaiah 46:11)

No matter who becomes president, God will continue to keep His promises to His children and to fulfill His good purposes in His world! We are simply called to trust and love!

'Whether tyrants obtain power or sovereigns are pious and just, all are governed by God's secret counsel, since otherwise there could be no king of the world. – John Calvin