

RESISTING THE POLITICIZING OF MY PULPIT

1st: The Pressure to Politicize

1. Tit 1:9-11
2. Previous - Sovereignty of God Over Gov't & Church's Supplications for Gov't - preached both in '04 & '12.

2nd: Some Personal Experience

1. Exposure to ideas in education
2. Exposure thru international travel
3. Our *citizenship*. Phil 3:20-21
4. Differentiate sphere stewardships. American experiment is unique.
 - i. Not preach personal political preferences but free to act as ind citizen.

3rd: Some Biblical Perspectives: Creation - Salvation - Eschatology

1. Relevance of Creation: Man as Image of God - Creation ordinances
 - 1i. Cain's city & culture - Gn 4
 - ii. Men who call on name of the Lord - Gn 4:26 - sojourners to sacred soil
 - a. Ab - heavenly land [Hb 11:15]. Lev 25:23 sojourners w/ YHWH
 - b. Since Fall, redemption now leads to Sabbath Rest.
 - iii. 1C 9:19-23 Paul in cultures: free man - voluntary slave: to win
 - a. v20 - Jews; v21 - Gentiles; v22 - to weak
 - b. Why? v19, 20, 21, *win* = v22 *save* - v23 *for the sake of the gospel*
 - c. v21 - Law of God [10c] under law of Christ [love - Jn 13:34].
 - iv. Law of God/Christ - morality of creation for gospel purpose - Gal 5:22f

2. Relevance of Salvation: recognize HS-generated life in people: A 11:23.
 - i. Fallen men all given the same gospel thru Christ's churches.
 - ii. 2C 5:16 - not see men in rln to this age but in rln to Christ - Col 3:9-11
 - iii. Render to Caesar [Mat 22:21]; submit to gov't [Rm 13:1ff]; honor the king [1Ptr 2:17].
 - a. Carson: *Christ & Culture Revisited* - Rm 13 also Rv 13.
 - b. We are more for reformation than revolution.
3. Relevance of Eschatology - gather people from globe: new man
 - i. Danger of politics - structured as a "religion": a god [Messiah]; ethic; eschatology [social utopia]. False theocracy.
 - ii. Satan's truncated eschatology: 1 Pt 1:13 *fix your hope completely*

4th: Some More Personal Ponderings

1. Recent "trigger" - VP Mike Pence at RNC - misuse of Heb 12:1 & 2C 3:17.
2. Recent letter - if pastors speak to family & workplace why not politics?
 - i. Rm 14:4; 1C 3:13; Jms 3:1 - each is accountable to Christ
3. Creation ordinances & NT directives on Christian life.
 - i. We live as citizens of King Jesus' monarchy - in all political settings.
 - ii. Battlefield = marriage, family, workplace [Eph 5-6] - wisdom
 - iii. Not to say Bible is silent on common grace topics.
4. College kids - communism or capitalism? 1Jn 2:15-17
5. Lk 24:44-48 = a most important text