

## Before You Vote, Consider This...

The Lord raises up and brings down (or, promotes and demotes) whoever He purposes to do so, both individuals and nations. Those who have walked with Him for a long time become sensitive to His ways, and can continue to be so for a season even if they turn away from the Lord and His ways.

Despite turning away from living under the ways of the Lord for at least three generations now, Americans still know that something is wrong in this country. The words of our founding fathers still echo in our ears, even if we no longer recognize the rights we enjoy as coming from the Hand of God. We feel the pains of disease in our nation, yet we will not come to the Great Physician for a correct diagnosis, let alone healing, because deep down, we know what He will say, and we love our ways too much to leave them behind. We are like the diabetic who knows the sugar he is consuming will kill him, yet whose “sweet tooth” rules over him so much that he will not turn away from it.

For all the wicked things this nation has done – and continues to do – before the Lord, He longs to be compassionate and shed His grace on America again, if her people would only turn from their own ways and back to His.

The Lord set before us a choice of leadership between the policies of a man who, though imperfect (as all men are), sought after the Lord and a man who follows a gospel that is really no gospel at all, but the ways of error. America made its choice, and now finds that *change* is leading to *chains*. We are in real danger of becoming bankrupt as a nation, from both Republicans and Democrats who thought the engine of our economy could never run out of gas. We are now the borrowers instead of the lenders, one of the direct curses in Deuteronomy of nations that forget God (chapter 28, verse 43), and are becoming slaves to our lenders (Proverbs 22:7) when God made us for freedom. Such people thought we could continue – with impunity – to promote outright sin before God, dishonor His name and persecute those who still love and serve Him and warn us of the consequences of leaving His ways. We ignore even the idea that selective judgment is being employed by God to try to turn America back from its self-destructive course and that new enemies are rising up, emboldened by our own wickedness, who would put us under a culture and laws that worship death. Yet, if America will change again, this time, for the Lord instead of her own flesh and appetites, the Lord is eager to break those chains and send us wise leaders after His own heart, as He did once before.

Do you not yet know that our entire political system is sick? That it will not be healed merely by voting “the other guys” into office? The reason this will not happen is that the people who currently make up this system have exchanged the truth of God for a lie. When a person seeks any office, no matter how seemingly insignificant, do not his or her opponents immediately search out that candidate’s past sins to use against them? Yet in an extreme display of hypocrisy, when those sins are found out (as they always are, especially these days when people are foolish enough to not only sin but record it for posterity), does not the party that nominated that candidate try their best to dismiss them while trumpeting the sins of the other candidate from the rooftops? Those same sins are multiplying for both parties because this nation’s chief sin is turning away from God, His Word and His Ways. The chaos we lament in our political process is a direct result of forgetting Who gave us our rights in the first place. Yes, sin has always been there

because we are human; but until lately it has dwelt under the surface, seen as something distasteful. Now it is out in the open, and people seem to revel in the slime.

Anyone who is a believer who tries to run for public office falls even under more intense scrutiny, because the world opposes the message, spoken or not (Isaiah 30: 10-12) and even our churches no longer teach God's ways. Those who would teach them are driven away. Even the word of those who claim to be believers is suspect, because many churches teach greed and materialism as signs of Divine favor, that God's enemies are somehow like Him and that there are many ways to God. Jesus Himself said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6), but cults and paganism share equal footing with God if they further the goals of a political party. No candidate stands and boldly declares, *I am a Christian. I deserved nothing but death and hell for my sins, but I was redeemed by the Blood of Jesus Christ, who took the penalty that I deserved. I have renounced those sins and all the works of the devil and I serve Jesus only*, because that is seen as political suicide. Believers are often depicted as sheep – easily manipulated, stupid and brainless when, in fact, sheep sometimes use more of their small brains than people use of their bigger ones. Jesus said that "My sheep listen to My voice" (John 10:27) and they will not follow the voice of a stranger (John 10:5); yet we are willing to follow any candidate who says they are for this or that policy, and elect them into office without diligently checking their background only to find those who elected them were deceived. The candidate either lied about supporting the policy and actually votes against it, or supports other policies that only serve to embarrass the people who elected them. How many times have we seen this happen? How many more must we go through before people wake up... and be a little more like "sheep?"

Politics is a human construct and as such is limited in its applications. It cannot save us from the problems caused by spiritual pathology. If we in this nation will seek God once more and turn from our ways, He will find us and restore this country because God is not finished with America. God Himself through His Holy Spirit will teach us and feed the Body of Christ and send pastors to teach the right ways of the Lord. He will strengthen them and give them discernment to see the lies of the false pastors and resist their teaching. And just as God raised up the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision (chapter 37) and gives life to the dead, so He is more than able to raise up economies and nations for those who fear His Name.

Look at the lesson of Israel, which for nearly two millennia did not exist as a nation, In God's good timing, Israel became a nation again in one day. A tiny country, surrounded by those who hate her, yet her enemies have been unable to exterminate her because *her God is with her*. Can not God do the same thing with the United States of America if her people will only turn back to the God who longs to be with this nation as He was before?

The mid-term elections are important, but not as important as what will ultimately cure our political process and this nation as a whole. Do your research into the candidates, but take your voter guide, spread it out before the Lord, and ask God to guide your decisions before you ever go into the voting booth.