



The Truth About Voting and Politics (Part 1) (The Responsibility of Government)

October 4, 2020

Introduction: Four Questions Some Want Me To Deal With Right Away

1. Who should I vote for?
2. Which party or candidate is the most righteous?
3. Which party or candidate best represents God's perfect will?
4. Should I vote for the one that is the closest to my values?

Note: Important Foundational Understanding

- The problem is that too many people are looking for "salvation by government." They are putting their hope in the political realm. But God warns us that when we put our confidence in kings bad things can happen (see 1 Samuel 8:9–18). There is no such thing as salvation by government (see Judges 8:22–23).

Source: How Should Christians Vote (page 45)

Note: Three Facts That Must Be Clear About Voting and Politics

1. Voting, as we know it, **did not exist** during any period in history prior to 1776
2. Politics by definition has to do with the "affairs of the cities"
3. Politicians are people who are **appointed** to handle our issues

Note: To watch clip click here https://youtu.be/ar7r5aG_B0Y

I. God Gave Specific Guidelines On How to Govern (Deuteronomy 4:5-9)

5 See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. **6 Observe them carefully**, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "**Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.**" **7** What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him? **8** And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? **9 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen** or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Note: We Are Not God and We Can Get Our Laws Wrong: Our laws are not the same as the laws described here. We at various times in history voted to implement certain laws (e.g. slavery, segregation, chauvinism, 120,000 Japanese internment from 1942-1946, pollution, etc.)



II. God Gave Specific Consequences for Not Governing Properly (Daniel 4:28-34)

28 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. **29** Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, **30** he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”

31 Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. **32** You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.” **33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people** and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird. **34** At the end of that time, **I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored.** Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

III. Jesus Gave Specific Instructions on How To Honor Government (Mark 12:17)

17 Then Jesus said to them, “**Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.**” And they were amazed at him.

Note: You must find a way to not act like the people you dislike or disagree with

Closing: Three Things That Concern Me During This Season

1. Christians **Triumphalism** Blended with **Political Zeal**
2. The Consequences for **Ignoring Truth** on All Sides
3. The Outcome if we **Over Spiritualize** a Secular Responsibility

Summary: If we focus on winning, ignore the truth, hide behind out of context scriptures, and confuse the spiritual with the secular, we will hurt everyone even the candidates we support.

Part Two: The Truth About Christian Triumphalism (When Christians Want to Take Over)

Part Three: The Truth About Lying to Yourself (Why we Lie to Ourselves During Political Seasons)

Part Four: The Truth About Being Spiritual In a Secular World (What If They Don’t Want to Be a Christian Nation: Living with and Loving Secular People)