

# Five Biblical Principles of Politics

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## ❖ Introduction

As another election approaches, there has been no shortage of anger and outrage that is somewhat equally matched by approval and support toward those officials whom we have elected. As Christians, we believe that whatever the Bible addresses, it does so authoritatively—and it addresses everything. Therefore, if we want to know how we should think about our civil government elections, we should turn there for guidance. While it is inappropriate for the Christian pulpit to be used as a partisan platform, it is equally unacceptable that much of Christendom is ill-prepared and does not take what it believes into the voting booth.

Many Christians are distressed at the current state of affairs and with the choices they have (or don't have) to cast their votes toward. As you seek to honor your Lord in the casting of your votes, do so by faith remembering the promises that God has made and the instruction that He has preserved for us. Today we will look at a few of the principles that God has set forth in His Word on this topic.

## ❖ Our Lord is the Sovereign King of Kings

*Proverbs 21:1*

- ◆ The ruler of our country is not the President, not Congress, not the Supreme Court, not the majority of people. We do live in a wonderful country but it is not ultimately under the rule of these entities—it is under the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are in His hand; we are under His scepter. We do not vote to make Jesus King of the United States, He is King right now.
- ◆ So if Jesus is sovereign and ruling over our country, why do things seem to be going so poorly? When we exercise our civil privilege of voting in our country it is not in the hopes that we will elect Jesus as our King. We are not voting to establish His rule or prerogative over our country—it was established after the resurrection when the Son asked the Father for all the nations, even the United States. The reason why things are going the way they are is because that is what He wants right now. There are many ways in which we can see God's blessing on our country but there are also a growing number of ways in which we see that we are a nation under His judgment.

*Psalms 2: 10-12*

- ◆ This is a messianic Psalm that is directly applied by the NT authors to the passion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. There is application however, to our country...our country is running as fast as it can away from God and abandoning Him in as many spheres as it can, all in the name of religious freedom. But abandoning Christ does not move us toward religious freedom; it only destroys the blessings of fellowship with Him and brings on His judgment.
- ◆ Notice that God's reaction in this Psalm toward the rebellious rulers is that first He laughs, holds them in derision, then speaks to them in His wrath and then crushes them under His rod of iron. Our nation's effort to rid ourselves of the rule of Jesus Christ will not be successful...it will either result in our glad submission to Him or it will result in our eventual demise. We are not seeking to make Jesus Lord over our country; He already is Lord over our country. Here's the point, when we go to vote we are going as servants and representatives of Jesus Christ in His victory and triumph—no whining.

## ❖ Genuine Political Neutrality is a Myth

*Deuteronomy 17:18-19*

- ◆ Obviously, this is not instruction given directly to our country. However, it is here in the Scriptures that we might learn more about the mind and character of God regarding ancient kings. The Lord tells the people of Israel that when they have a king, he should make his own copy of the law of God and should read it continually so that he would not veer to the right or the left.

*Psalms 94*

- ◆ We live in a land where the wicked frequently triumph and it is natural for us to ask, "Lord, how long"? We see our culture of promiscuity and we murder unborn children because they are an inconvenience to us. Millions of men abandon the children they have fathered and to avoid their responsibility, they opt for the murder of their children.
- ◆ But notice that the people declare that God does not see these things. Their thinking is futile because God has darkened their minds. But what is almost worse is that some within the Church teach that murdering the fatherless is a function of women's healthcare. That homosexuality is simply a private decision. It is no wonder that the world thinks that God does not see...in some cases, they have learned that from the Church of impotent, rebellious pulpits.
- ◆ A throne of iniquity will not ultimately stand against God and will have no fellowship with Him. There is no neutral ground; the throne is either in submission to the Lord or it is in rebellion to Him. You can see this rebellion in the laws it passes, in the things it protects and in the things it destroys. Such a throne is destined to be crushed under a rod of iron or slain in the grace of God.

❖ **Learn to Respect Your Enemies and Fight Like a Christian**

*Romans 13:1-7*

- ◆ Given the first two principles, this one can be very difficult. We see very plainly that the civil government has been established by God and has been entrusted with the authority of lethal force. The civil magistrate is God's deacon of blessing upon those who do good and His deacon of wrath upon the evil doer. Either way, we are obligated to manifest honor to the authorities that God has placed over us.
- ◆ We cannot take this verse in isolation because it does not represent the whole counsel of God on the topic. We do see other occasions in the Scriptures where the civil authority is resisted (e.g. David/Saul; John the Baptist/Herod; Peter & John/Sanhedrin; Paul/Felix) but if we are called to a place where we need to resist, we must first be qualified to do so and secondly must do so showing honor.
- ◆ We must be careful not to get sucked into the complaining and disrespectful talk that tends to be common. When we rail against the authorities that God has placed over us, we rail against God. Instead, we are called to show honor, we declare the Lordship of King Jesus, we demand that the abominations cease and we plead with God to grant a reformation and revival in our land. Fight like a Christian for you are a servant of the Lord. This is not pacifism, this is how the will of God is done on earth in the kingdom of Christ.

❖ **Vote Your Conscience, But Have Your Conscience Transformed by God's Word**

*Exodus 18:21*

- ◆ When it became necessary for leaders other than Moses to be selected, Moses' father-in-law counsels him that *even men presiding over ten men* were to fear God and be men of truth. If we vote for political rebellion, treachery and mediocrity, we cannot complain when we get it.
- ◆ Often times we think that we are winning a victory by voting for the candidate that is less bad than the other. Somehow we think that spiritual incrementalism is the means by which God sanctifies the civil realm. *It hasn't work yet.* We are forgetting the long run. We are not primarily interested in "winning" the election that is right in front of us. Our desire is to see the Spirit of God go forth in our land and make people alive; to draw them into His kingdom; to open eyes and soften hearts; to manifest the fruits of His Spirit in people's lives and to see love, truth, goodness and beauty flourish in our country. This is why we look to our Lord Jesus Christ and cast our vote by faith—not faith in polls, faith in Him. And you must remember that you may not see this reformation in your lifetime.
- ◆ We tend to be duped into thinking that our political problems have political solutions and we have bought the lie that we are throwing our votes away by casting them for someone who the exit-polls say is un-electable. We do not cast our votes before men; we are acting as Christians *before God*. When you cast your vote consider that you are handing your ballot to Him.

❖ **Congress is Neither the Light of the World nor the Savior of the World**

*Matthew 5:13-16*

- ◆ Our system of democratic government is a good one. It is not the system that God chose for establishing a nation. If we were going to imitate him we would be monarchists. Regardless, our governmental system is not the light of the world. All that we do should be to point others to Christ and to declare His Lordship. If our nation had this single point correct, good things would flow down from it...but because we have missed this point, what we see is abomination all around us. This is because the Church has lost its savor; it has lost its saltiness and is being trampled in accordance with the will of Christ. God must restore the church in our country.
- ◆ Remember we are Christians. This truth has implications in many realms, including politics.