

The Christian Citizen and Politics – *(various passages)*

Introduction – While it is inappropriate for the pulpit to be used as a partisan platform, it is appropriate and necessary for the Word of God to instruct us as Christian citizens in every area of our lives. When it comes to casting ballots in an election or any other political activity, we must remember and apply the principles derived from the Scriptures.

Jesus is King of Kings (Rev 11:15, Psalm 2) – The sermons of the New Testament make clear that Psalm 2:1-6 prophetically spoke of the crucifixion of Jesus and v7 was fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus. Matt 28:18-20 makes clear that the rest of Psalm 2 refers to His ascension, enthronement and present session at the right hand of God the Father.

Sovereign Rule (Prov 21:1) – That rule of Christ is a rule as King over all other kings, presidents, justices, and congressmen. So how come things are going so badly? It is because He wants it to be so. Jesus Christ is Lord for our blessing or for our undoing. We never go to vote in order to make Him Lord; we go to seek His blessing and mercy. The nation needs to hear that the Lord is displeased with us because we do not bow down to Him (with a name, Jesus) as Lord of all. In addition, we must go politically as representatives of the *One Who* is Lord, not *one who* would like a place at the table. We must vote as victors.

Christian Partisanship (Deut 17:14-20) – What kind of ruler are we seeking; what are the values of the party we should support? The king (and, it would follow, those ruling alongside him as well as his subjects) should find their standard for rule and life from one Book. The Myth of Neutrality is our central cultural idol. It is seen in our halls of political power and of course it is therefore seen in our government schools. But it is seen there because it is taught in many of our pulpits as well.

Respect Your Enemies (Rom 13:1-7) – Some would use this as an excuse to never resist our rulers in an absolute way. They might also argue that, because this was written while wicked Caesars rule, we are not to bring Christ into politics. But look closely at the presupposition: “...*there is no authority except from God.*” God has not divorced Himself from politics. David honored Saul as the Lord’s anointed king but David refused (rightly) to cease from resisting Saul.

You Get What You Voted For (Ex 18:21. Judges 9:7-15) – Moses’ father-in-law taught that if you want someone in your civil realm to have civil authority over as little as ten people, they should fear YHWH and love His truth. How then can we vote for people who do not love God or His ways, who call evil “good,” and good “evil?” How then can we vote for people who say they believe some truth in their private heart but would never impose that truth upon the public? They are the *bramble-men* of Judges 9. Public law is nothing less than the imposition of someone’s morals. We are not fundamentally we not Republicans, Democrats, or some brand of Independents. We are not fundamentally conservative or liberal, right or left. We are fundamentally Monarchists. And this is not a requirement that you may only vote for someone who is not a sinner, for we are not Separatists either. Be a Christian citizen and vote your conscience; you are voting before God.

Congress is Not the Light of the World (Matt 5:13-16) – Politics is not our savior, but we keep trying to make it so. It is no exaggeration to say that we have created a nanny-state, nor that we have national policies that would make Marx and Lenin proud. But why do we not look to the church and her Lord for salvation? Because the church does not bow her knee to her Lord. We are being trampled because the Lord wants us trampled. Why?

Sweet Discipline and a Cry for Reformation (Heb 12:3-11) – If we see the state of our country as discipline from the hand of the Lord (and not simply impersonal laws of nature or economics, for instance) and if we understand that judgment begins in the household of God, and if we will hear His words, “*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land*” (2 Chron 7:14), then we have reason to hope and cry out for reformation. May God have mercy upon us.