

VOTING YOUR BIBLE

By Thomas E. Caldwell Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Like all veterans, while serving on active duty I pledged to support and defend our Constitution and the precious rights of all citizens. What was a puzzlement to so many of the people I met in my years of travel around the globe was why Americans fail to exercise the foundational right to vote. It is likewise a puzzlement to me and not just because so many men and women have sacrificed to secure and preserve this right but because I am a devout Christian.

You cannot deny the rise of evil in our time. It is force-fed to us every day through all media. Elected representatives, their judicial appointees and bureaucrats at all levels enact laws and statutes that are an abomination to most of us. Some elected and some still candidates even advocate the dismantling of our way of life and the murder of Christians and Jews. Those leading or attempting to lead the Christian life often ask themselves how the madness in this land could be happening.

Over 90 million people of voting age in this country self-identify as Evangelical Christians. But well over 40 million of those people don't vote. And over 15 million aren't even *registered* to vote. Nearly fifty-five million self-avowed Christians in essence say, “I'm just going to sit on the sidelines and do nothing and let evil take over”. Friends, this is a disgrace. Who shares the blame if we have wicked policies? Righteousness exalts a nation. Sin is a reproach to My people.

The Holy Bible tells us that when the righteous are in authority the people rejoice. When the unrighteous are in authority the people groan. Are you tired of groaning?

The fallacy of separation of Church and State

People use the slogan of Separation of Church and State as an excuse to 1) avoid viewing and confronting the issues of today through a Biblical lens and 2) avoid voting.

Separation of Church and State appears nowhere in our founding documents. Not the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Bill of Rights. Nowhere.

Here's where it innocently came from: in 1802 Thomas Jefferson wrote a personal letter, not a presidential decree, to answer a question posed by the Baptist Convention in Danbury, Connecticut who were being wrongfully pressured by local governmental officials. He used the term “build a wall between Government power and religious freedom” to affirm to them that the First Amendment is there in part to keep government out of the business of the Church and NOT to keep the Church out of the business of government.

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Over the years, Jefferson’s words have been hijacked and misused to remove God from the public square, remove prayer from schools, remove the Ten Commandments from Federal Buildings and it continues to intimidate pastors and their flocks from expressing freely their thoughts about heinous, un-Godly, non-Biblical acts, rules, norms and laws in this country.

I believe its also part of a larger plan to keep Believers from becoming politically active or even politically engaged.

Most of the problems of our society and even the world have been politicized by people who have some kind of agenda which to my intense study seems to be clearly anti-Biblical. In this Republic, inarguably established on Judeo-Christian values and beliefs which have not yet been scrubbed from our history and our founding articles, Christians are admonished as “too political” when they stand up for truth and justice. Swept into a corner and urged into the bitter evil of human indifference to suffering and wrong.

God’s instruction

I won’t tell you who to vote for, I only suggest that you vote according to your personal conscience and Biblical values. Through study of the Word you should be equipped enough to understand what scripture says about all things and you have your God-given sanctified conscience to guide you. Viewing life and all of its challenges through a Biblical lens, discerning how arguments and choices align with what is called a Biblical world view is what we are instructed to do.

For example, one party, and thus every candidate running for office under the flag of this party supports abortion on demand – the murder of children – and calls it “reproductive rights”. But the Holy Book says that God hates hands that shed innocent blood. Who is more innocent than the unborn? The same party that wants to put your sons, grandsons and nephews in cocktail dresses and emasculate them demands the right to dissolve parental rights, in effect making children little more than possessions of “The State”. And then to sexually mutilate young misguided children in order to change their sex. What does the Bible say about such things? By the way, we know that God assigned our sexes in the womb.

Long ago, God’s teachings addressed the issues being whipped into a giant political argument-soup these days. He addressed everything including but not limited to personal responsibility, national borders, family, parental rights, marriage (between a man and a woman), the rule of law (sadly meaningless in this land at least in terms of rights of the innocent and the victims) and the necessity of work. This is one reason why some of us refer to the Holy Bible as the owner’s manual for our lives here on earth.

Jesus charged us to be His Ambassadors and to be salt and light and thus oppose evil in this fallen world. Salt has always been a preservative and a sanitizer or disinfectant. Think of yourself as the salt to help preserve our way of life and a disinfectant to rub out the infection of corruption and depravity in America. We are also to shine the light of love and truth in the darkness through our thoughts, words and deeds. Political engagement is one way to do these

things as His Ambassadors and voting our Biblical beliefs is a most visible and direct way indeed.

I cringe when people reflexively say well, I always vote for this party or that one. It's not necessary for me to point out to you that neither FDR nor JFK nor Eisenhower nor Reagan are going to be on any ballot. Neither will George Washington or Thomas Jefferson. Please note that those latter gents, usually called “Statesmen”, were revered not only because they were men of great character who were Christians, but because of their Biblical, common sense actions and policies.

It is likewise cringeworthy to hear the excuse that someone can't vote for this guy or that guy because of some perceived flaw in them. This guy puts out mean tweets, that gal doesn't seem religious enough for me. The reality is that there are no *perfect* candidates because Jesus is not on the ballot. But His teachings and his direction to us are. God has frequently used flawed people to enact righteous policies and laws. I would suggest you vote but don't vote personalities or celebrity or rumors or hairstyles. Your vote should be based on the candidate's alignment with God's word and what you consider the most important of his or her policies, clearly explained and understood.

With whom do you stand in agreement?

I am convinced that silence and inaction enable evil to flourish. If Christians do not become politically engaged, guess what will rush in to fill the void: every evil and demonic practice.

Many say, well ours is a sovereign God and He's going to do what He wants to do. But sovereign does not mean that He is the one who makes everything happen in our fallen world. How, then is this question of sovereignty turned into an excuse not to vote?

Satan enabled sin and violence, disease and hatred to come onto the scene... not God. But if Satan has found you in agreement with him that God is responsible for everything, he next convinced you that God, being “sovereign” hurts you or helps you according to His whim. So if you believe THAT, the next logical question from satan is: “why pray”? If God is going to do whatever, then why pray to Him and ask Him for his help and direction? Why praise Him when things are going well? Why attempt to have a personal relationship with Him? Why adhere to His principles? What's the use?

The statement that God is sovereign and in total control *therefore* He does whatever pleases Him without regard to you is an abject lie and a fallacy of judgement. It is refuted by the Holy Bible over and over again. God hears the cries of His people and acts accordingly. The examples abound. Jesus says whatever you ask in His name will be done. These things are stated clearly so that you will understand and not be fooled into thinking otherwise.

The perversion of the word “sovereign” as it applies to God is the cornerstone of the most foolish reason for inaction as evil floods our nation, our communities, our schools and more. We must

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stand in agreement with God, upon Biblical principles and be engaged in stemming and reversing the tide. Doing so in prayer, but also in action; the simple but important act of voting for policies, programs and legislation that align with our Christian Faith.

A Christian call to action

Booker T. Washington once said “a lie doesn’t become truth, wrong doesn’t become right, evil doesn’t become good simply because it is accepted by the majority”. We find ourselves in an era of lies. What does the Bible caution us regarding this?

We are rightly told to trust in God, even to pray without ceasing. We were never instructed by Him to sit idly and do nothing to advance the Kingdom. How many stories from the Bible do you recall where God used people to speak truth to power for the betterment of His people and in fact all people?

Psalm 33:12 is true: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord”. As Christians we love God. We love our Country. What’s wrong with that? We want that our country should continue to be Blessed by the Lord our God. But there are those in politics who do not love our God and do not appear to love our country.

I believe that if Christians would come together to vote their values, we could change America. Let it not be said of you that you were idle when your country, your family and the teachings of God that you hold dear are under unprecedented attack.

Beginning with this election let your voice be heard through your vote until Jesus returns. Be salt and light, be His Ambassadors and advance the Kingdom of God for the Glory of God.

Thomas Caldwell is a retired U.S. Navy Intelligence Officer, farmer, contributor to Wisconsin Christian News and WCN-TV, inspirational speaker and author of the modern true Christian adventure story “*The Mouths of the Wicked*”