

ONE TRUE ELECTION

With yet another political election in the endless cycle having come and gone, I am reminded yet again that there appears to be a default position among the majority of believers that takes for granted a supposed solemn responsibility and divine calling to vote in such elections. It seems appropriate to me, therefore, to outline the case *against* the saints being involved in such earthly matters.

This may seem like a strange subject to write about in some ways, but I am convinced that many followers of Christ experience condemnation from their brethren when they follow the inner voice that guides them away from politics, and it would be good to examine the whole subject in the light of the scriptures.

JESUS CHRIST DOES NOT VOTE

The fact of Jesus Christ not voting is of primary concern, as we are His body and therefore should be doing what He does if we are led by His Spirit, even as He does all things He sees the Father doing. This is the same Jesus Christ who:

...ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things (Ephesians 4:10)

And the One who:

...will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (Philippians 3:21)

Shall then this same Lord of all things, both seen and unseen, who has risen above all things, stoop to cast a ballot for one carnal man over another? He who came to save us from our carnality?

OUR KINGDOM IS A HEAVENLY ONE

When questioned by Pilate, Jesus proclaimed His kingdom as being from another place, and His purpose being the witness of the Truth, not for any political reason.

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:36-37)

Not only this, but the book of Hebrews confirms that those who walk by faith are strangers and pilgrims in this world, and that the country we seek is heavenly, not earthly:

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them,^[c] embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (Hebrews 11:13-16)

Do we, as strangers and pilgrims who desire the heavenly realm, expend our energy on manipulating the political affairs of earth?

WE ARE CITIZENS AND AMBASSADORS FROM ANOTHER PLACE

Not only are we strangers and pilgrims in the earth, but also citizens and ambassadors, as the following passages declare.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20)

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Though we may have our earthly nationalities, our true identity is spiritual and heavenly, being One in Christ. Should we then, be voting, campaigning, and scheming in elections that belong to another realm, and another country, than that to which we belong? Should we, as ambassadors for Christ, pause in representing the glory of His kingdom, to indulge and engage in the carnal governmental issues of the place we have been sent to?

GOD USES EVIL RULERS

Indeed, even if we were to vote, who is to say who the right person is? For even if we correctly identify which candidate is 'better' according to the flesh, who is the say that is the man that is going to fulfill God's hidden purposes? For indeed, God uses evil men and evil rulers, as He said to Pharaoh:

But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. (Exodus 9:16)

The Father is forming Jesus Christ in His people day by day, and will use all things to that end. Who are we to say if it is this man or that He has chosen as His instrument in such things?

POLITICS ENGENDERS HATRED

Politics, by its very nature, causes frustration, division and hatred among men, and many believers even stoop to the level of hurling abuse at whichever man or woman is the villain of the hour in their political mind. Barack Obama is a wonderful example of this for me, because he appears to me to be one of the most casually hated men by professing Christians. I have often said that I have heard so much abuse of him by those who name the name of Christ (even to the point of wishing him dead!), but never once heard someone focus on the fact that Obama's spirit was given by God, Christ's blood was shed for him, and he is dearly beloved and indeed ransomed by the divine Father of us all. To me this man is almost a touchstone of how much people really are able to love their enemies. I don't doubt for a minute he is an evil man in the flesh - as is every carnal man that does not walk in the Spirit - and to love him does not negate, or wink at, the deeds he does. But to love someone is to see them in the eternal reality of Christ's abundant life, and to know their sin has been fully paid for is to confess that the blood of Jesus has infinitely more value and power than every sickening sin ever conceived or acted out.

To hate anyone ties us to being earthly minded, wallowing in the mire of the petty politics and cruel hypocrisies of this world instead of setting our mind on things above, where we are seated with Christ in the heavenlies. Hate is like ankle weights that keep pulling us downwards, bending our thoughts in the hopeless trajectory of the flesh, instead of releasing us into the vibrant life of the mind of Christ.

Those of us who have seen the transcendent glory of God's truly unconditional, powerful, never ending love, are therefore ambassadors of this self same love, as we grow into the image of the One who loves all without partiality, and certainly does not grind His teeth at the Obamas of this world, but loves them always.

SHARING IN THE SIN OF EVIL MEN

Knowing that the carnal men in the political theater are unaware of the mind of God, we ought to love them, as I have said, but indeed not become sharers in their sin.

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure. (1 Timothy 5:22)

If we cast a vote for a carnal man, we will become enablers, and therefore sharers, in whatever that man does. Many political leaders send soldiers into war, fire missiles and drones, and cause the deaths of many people all over the world. We are called to be ministers of the Light and Life of Christ, not to share in the death and destruction produced by human nature, which causes misery and ruin wherever it turns.

AMERICA IS NOT GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

Another danger that is apparent in these election cycles, is that many American believers have trouble separating their faith from their fleshly nationality, and "we" often means "We, America", rather than "We, the people of God".

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. (Colossians 3:8-11)

To be American, or German, or Thai, or Ethiopian, *says nothing about your place in the kingdom of heaven.* For America to prosper or be impoverished, to stand or to fall, *says nothing about the state of the kingdom of heaven.* And to cast a ballot between two carnal men for the leadership of America, does nothing to advance the kingdom of heaven.

THE SCRIPTURES ARE NOT POLITICAL

If God were calling us in Christ to involve ourselves in the affairs of this world politically, one would expect there would be some kind of scriptural precedent among believers. Today's articles written by believers are full of references to world affairs, America, government, political elections and issues, but does this agree with the scriptures? The answer is a resounding "No!" Indeed, the only time world affairs are even mentioned is in the narrative of the Gospels and the book of Acts, and only inasmuch as they are relevant to the story. If we looked at the epistles, we would have no way of knowing who was in power, what was going on in the world, and what the political issues of the day were...what an amazing difference to our focus today! Indeed, the necessary spiritual attitude towards politics and government could be summed up by Peter in his second epistle:

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. (1 Peter 2:13-17)

We are to submit and honor those who have been set over us, both in the sense of being law abiding, and also in the sense of praying for them and loving them.

OUR WEAPONS ARE NOT CARNAL

A common argument used for voting is that we are called to "get involved" and not be passive bystanders in this world. There is an element of truth to that assertion, but indeed, the issue at hand is not whether we should be active, but rather in what manner:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

We are to walk in the Spirit and Word of the Most High God, and our war is heavenly, and accomplished by heavenly means. We pray for the will of God to be manifest in this realm, and those prayers are always answered, for His will always continues to unfold, overcome, and be fulfilled. Our Father does not need great carnal armies with carnal weapons to achieve His divine purposes, let alone ticked boxes on ballot forms!

THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD WILL BE SWALLOWED UP

**“I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.
¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one
Which shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14)**

Daniel saw a kingdom that was to fill the whole earth, and overcome all things, expanding and increasing without end. This is the kingdom we labor for, this is the kingdom we hope for, and this is the kingdom that shall replace all other kingdoms, governments and rulers:

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” (Revelation 11:15)

Amen!

WHICH ELECTION MATTERS?

In closing, I would candidly state that there is only one true election that I know of that is near and dear to the heart of our Father and His Christ. Only one election that is worth being consumed with, only one election that shall endure through the ages...and that election is yours, brethren!

**We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,
³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in
our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, beloved brethren,
your election by God. (1 Thessalonians 2:4)**