

When The Election Is Over!

As Christians we are blessed to live in a democratic society. We are privileged to have a voice in the election process to determine new leaders. However, sometimes emotions become heated when discussing our candidates for office. And when the election is over, our feelings can often be diverse and/or divisive. Whether our candidate won or lost, we must remember certain things when the election is over.

Regardless of the election results, we must remember that God is still ultimately in control of all things (**Daniel 2:21; 4:17, 34-35**). It is God who ordained that we have governing authorities (**Romans 13:1-4**). They are God's minister to us for good. We need to be careful about speaking evil of the rulers of the people (i.e. **Acts 23:1-5**). We should strive to have a conscience without offence towards God and men (**Acts 24:16**).

What is our responsibility to earthly governments (good or bad – in our eyes)? We owe our submission to those in authority (**Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:13-15**). We are to pay our taxes to the governing authorities (**Romans 13:6**). We owe our respect and honor to them (**1 Peter 2:17; Titus 3:1-2**). And of course, we owe them our prayers that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and reverence (**1 Timothy 2:1-4; cf. Romans 12:18**).

Remember that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (**Matthew 28:18**). Jesus told Pilate that he could have no power at all against Him unless it had been given to him from above (**John 19:10-11**). All things are under His feet and He is the head over all things (**Ephesians 1:22**). Truly, Jesus is the ruler over the kings of the earth (**Revelation 1:5**). God continues to rule over all that He has created.

Remember, all things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are called according to His purpose (**Romans 8:28**). What lessons are we learning? With God being for us, who can be against us (**Romans 8:31-34**). Regardless of what happens, we are in God's hands. He has promised never to leave us or to forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5-6**).

We must remember that our true citizenship is in Heaven (**Philippians 3:20**). We are fellow citizens with all the saints (**Ephesians 2:19**). We are just pilgrims and sojourners while here on the earth (**1 Peter 1:1; 2:11**). We truly desire a better, that is a heavenly country (**Hebrews 11:16**). As the phrase in a song goes, "This world is not my home, I am just passing through."

Our true spiritual identity is as citizens of the kingdom of heaven (**Colossians 1:13**). We are to seek first the rule of God in our lives (**Matthew 6:33**). We are to proclaim the praises of God for His mercy (**1 Peter 2:9-10**). It is our desire to go and make disciples of all the nations (**Matthew 28:19-20**). It is through the church that the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to all (**Ephesians 3:10**).

Remember we serve the Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6-7**). He is the one who died to make peace between men (**Ephesians 2:13-18**). We have been called to be sons of God and we are to be peacemakers (**Matthew 5:9**). The King of Kings and Lord of Lords is truly the one hope of the world for peace (**1 Timothy 6:15**). The Lord knows those who are His (**2 Timothy 2:19**).

Remember we are to love our enemies (even politicians) and bless those who hate us (**Matthew 5:43-48**). Regardless of what we think, vengeance belongs to the Lord, He will repay (**Romans 12:19**). We are to display the wisdom that comes from above (**James 3:17-18**). We are to contend for the faith without being contentious (**2 Timothy 2:24-26**). We are to live a life in such a way that the world may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in Heaven (**Matthew 5:16**).

Something to think about!

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