

“Voting and Wrap-Up”

The Bible and Culture - NLPC Summer 2018 - Week 12

- Last week we struggled with questions like...
 - For those who are convinced of the need to vote w/in our existing 2-party structure, on what should our allegiances be based?
 - ▶ The morality of the party’s platform?
 - ❖ Pro-life vs. LGBT rights?
 - ❖ Low taxation vs. social safety net?
 - ▶ The morality of the particular candidate?
 - ❖ Immoral free-market guy vs. moral socialist?
 - ❖ Racism despising marxist vs. openly racist capitalist?
 - ▶ A mixture of both?
 - ▶ Which priorities are higher?

- What is voting?
 - It is hard to find a Biblical example of something that matches our particular voting structure.
 - ▶ Maybe here?

2 Samuel 5:1–4 - ¹ Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Behold, we are your bone and flesh. ² In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the Lord said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’ ” ³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴ David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.
 - ▶ Did the elders of the people, at least, elect David? Were they like our “electors”?
 - ▶ Yet God had already anointed David king, years before.
 - ▶ Whatever the elders did, it included a covenant between them and David.

- ❖ David promising faithful rule, no doubt.
- ❖ The elder promising the allegiance of their tribe
- ▶ In our country, our elected officials take vows to us, not us to them...
- What *is* a vote?
 - ▶ Is it something like a vow that in which we promise our allegiance to the particular candidate should they win (w/in the confines of our system)?
 - ❖ Do you understand yourself to be making such a vow when you go into voting booth?
 - ❖ If so, then it seems to me that our priority should be choosing a candidate/party's *platform* that most lines up with Biblical principle.
 - Since that's the most likely path the candidate will take if elected...
 - But how could you really know...
 - ▶ Or is a vote a something like a prayer to God for the person to be elected?
 - ❖ If so, then maybe our focus should lean more toward personal character?
 - ❖ I mean would God want us to pray for a free-market cad or a left-leaning gentleman?
 - ▶ Or is a vote something else entirely? Like a momentary comment on the immediate state of our society?
 - ❖ Like that racism is our biggest problem...
 - ❖ Or that our welfare state is a failed experiment...
 - ❖ People who lean this way (or who lean toward one of the others), need to at least labor to develop a Biblical sense of priority...
 - What social ills are truly the most urgent?
 - Where in the scripture would you go to prove that?

- Also, how does the Bible propose *addressing* that social ill and how does that compare to the way one's candidate or party does?

- Cultural Hope...

- Do not the scriptures teach a victorious Christ, in history?

Daniel 7:13–14 - ¹³ *I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And 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 one that shall not be destroyed.*

Isaiah 9:7 - *Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

Isaiah 65:20–23 - ²⁰ *No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them.*

Mark 4:30–32 - ³⁰ *And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.*

- We don't know the timing or the means, but we can be hopeful!