

"THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF VOTING"
DEUTERONOMY 1:1-18; ROMANS 13:1-6

INTRO: As citizens of the United States of America, we have the privilege and responsibility of voting for candidates and issues relating to the government of our nation. **AS CHRISTIAN CITIZENS, WE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN VOTING AS IT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING THE BIBLICAL INFLUENCE INTO THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY.** Voting is very serious and truly is a **very important action for every Christian to perform.** **DO YOU VOTE?**

Consider some practical benefits of the Christian Vote:

- 1) The Christian Vote enables us to represent Christ's values in the direction of the nation.
- 2) The Christian Vote is a witness for the principles of Christ.
- 3) The Christian Vote is the way to bring the Word of God to bear in the culture.
- 4) The Christian Vote is the VOICE OF GOD in the direction of the nation.
- 5) The Christian Vote is the way to put our convictions into policies.

THE FAILURE TO VOTE IS NEGLECTING TO FULFILL OUR ROLE AS CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS. So, DOES GOD WANT US TO VOTE? The answer is YES which is why we are going to consider **THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF VOTING** in today's message.

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I. THE PURPOSE FOR VOTING - ROMANS 13:1-6

VOTING GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO CARE ABOUT AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO GOVERNMENT FROM THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

A. Government was Instituted by God - Romans 13:1-3

1. To Punish Evil
2. To Praise Good
3. To Practice Justice

THE CHRISTIAN VOTE IS NEEDED TO ELECT THOSE WHO WILL PROMOTE GODLINESS IN SOCIETY.

B. Government Officials are Ministers of God - Romans 13:4-6

NOTE: The word "MINISTER" is mentioned three times in the text. Twice in verse 4 and once in verse 6. In doing so, the Holy Spirit used two Greek words to explain the nature of the MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT.

1. Verse 4: "Minister" is "DIAKONOS" from which the word "Deacon" comes and refers to "one who serves. Those in government are **SERVANTS OF GOD** intended to serve God first and the people second.

2. Verse 6: "Minister" is "LEITOURGOS" from which the word "Liturgy" comes and means "To Discharge an Office." Those in government are to discharge their office in a God-honoring and biblical manner with godly integrity, actions, policies and provision.

THE CHRISTIAN VOTE IS NEEDED TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO SERVE GOD EFFECTIVELY IN GOVERNMENT.

C. Government needs the Christian in order to Function Properly.

1. To Reveal what is Good and what is Evil
2. To Help perform that which is Good and reject that which is Evil

THE CHRISTIAN VOTE IS NEEDED TO PLACE BIBLICALLY-MINDED PEOPLE IN OFFICE WHO WILL PROMOTE BIBLICAL POLICIES.

D. Government needs the Christian Vote to Promote Biblical Truth

1. The wrong people voted into government will promote wrong policies.
2. The right people voted into government will promote right policies.

THE CHRISTIAN VOTE IS NEEDED TO PLACE TRUTH INTO GOVERNMENT AND TO SEE IT ACTIVATED.
ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE PEOPLE FOR WHICH TO VOTE - DEUTERONOMY 1:13

MOSES IS GIVING INSTRUCTION ON WHO SHOULD LEAD ISRAEL

A. People who are Wise

-Those who have biblical knowledge of God's Truth and can apply it.

B. People who have Understanding

-Those who have biblical discernment and make godly judgments.

C. People who are Known (Lit.- "Knowledgeable")

-Those who are experienced and respected.

ILLUSTRATION:

. THE POWER OF VOTING

THE CHRISTIAN VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

- A. Voting makes a Difference on Who gets into Office
- B. Voting makes a Difference on What Policies are Enacted
- C. Voting makes a Difference on the Direction of the Nation
- D. Voting makes a Difference on Ministry of the Church

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. THE PROBLEM OF VOTING

CHRISTIANS WHO DO NOT VOTE OR WHO VOTE IGNORANTLY

- A. Many Christians Do Not Vote and thereby Dishonor God
- B. Many Christians Do Not Vote Intelligently and thereby Dishonor God

ILLUSTRATION:

V. THE PATTERN FOR VOTING

CHRISTIANS MUST KNOW THE ISSUES AND WHERE CANDIDATES STAND ON THOSE ISSUES.

- A. Be Knowledgeable of the Issues at Hand
 - 1. Issues of Life
 - 2. Issues of Religious Freedom
 - 3. Issues of the Family Values
 - 4. Issues of Israel
 - 5. Issues of Immigration
- B. Be Knowledgeable of the Candidates Positions on the Issues at Hand
 - 1. By Listening to what they say
 - 2. By Researching their Positions (Voters guides)

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION

EACH OF US WILL STAND BEFORE GOD AND GIVE AN ACCOUNT ON HOW WE INFLUENCE THE CULTURE FOR GODLINESS. VOTING IS ONE WAY TO INFLUENCE THE CULTURE FOR CHRIST THAT WILL RESULT ON RECEIVING A REWARD FROM GOD.

WILL YOU VOTE AND WILL YOU VOTE BIBLICALLY?