

## Voting Responsibly A Christian's Conscience

Any judgment we, who are **Christians**, are to use in making the right decision concerning any candidate must come from clear **Biblical** teaching and how the views of each person running, for whatever office, line up with truth that can only be found therein. For the time here we will be looking at seven areas that need our attention in this upcoming major (*but should be considered in any*) election.

Heb 4:12 For **the word of God** is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

### 1. What would Jesus do?

How would He vote in any election?

- First it must be understood that the **Godhead** has deemed it necessary that people be governed because without restraint chaos would exist. And whatever form of government a society is governed by; whether a dictatorship (*Remember what happened in Iraq immediately after the United States "liberated" it and their dictator was expelled?*), a democracy, socialism, communism, aristocracy or other, **God** has not endorsed either type of rule, only the rule itself. (*Ultimately, Christians live under a theocracy.*) But there are some things under each rule that **He** absolutely hates and will not allow such actions that are against **His** will to go unpunished.

Rom 13:1 Every person should obey **the government in power**. No government would exist if it hadn't been **established by God**. The governments which exist (*not the type of government*) have been put in place by God. 2 Therefore, whoever resists the government opposes what God has established (*i.e., rule*). Those who resist will bring punishment on themselves. 3 People who do what is right don't have to be afraid of the government. But people who do what is wrong should be afraid of it. Would you like to live without being afraid of the government? (*In a society where there is no fear of punishment for evildoers?*) Do what is right, and it will praise you. 4 The government is God's servant working for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid. The government has the right to carry out the death sentence. It is God's servant, an avenger to execute God's anger on anyone who does what is wrong. 5 Therefore, it is necessary for you to obey, not only because you're afraid of God's anger but also because of your own conscience. 6 That is also why you pay your taxes. People in the government are God's servants while they do the work He has given them.\* 7 Pay everyone whatever you owe them. If you owe taxes, pay them. If you owe tolls, pay them. If you owe someone respect, respect that person. If you owe someone honor, honor that person. (*GNB*)

*\*Deu 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.*

*"Christians may not like the government they have or respect their leaders, but God requires that we live with and under the system we have. We must obey our leaders as fully as possible because resistance, when there is no Biblical basis for it, is sin."* Brad Price

- And whether we agree with whatever government we have we are to continue to pray that they make decisions that will allow the church to grow. Ultimately, though, **God** will

receive glory by having His way whoever is elected\*. And campaign promises that are not kept do not escape His hearing.

1Ti 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for **all people**; 2 for **kings** and **all others who are in authority**, **that** (*the reason we pray for our secular leaders*) we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct. 3 This is good and it pleases God our Savior, 4 Who wants **everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth.** (GNB)

\*Exo 9:16 And in very deed for this *cause* have I raised thee up, for **to shew in thee My power**; and that **My name may be declared** throughout all the earth.

Psa 12:1 **To the chief Musician upon Sheminith, A Psalm of David.** Help, LORD; for the godly man ceases; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. 2 They **speak vanity** (*champagne promises?*) every one with his neighbour: **with flattering lips** and with a double heart do they speak. 3 The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaketh proud things (*Heb.1419- [from 1431- to twist] insolent [disrespectful]*)[*Lying about your opponent? Exaggerating your own record?*]: 4 **Who have said, With our tongue** (*Heb.3956- speech*) **will we prevail**; our lips (*Heb.8193- language*) are our own: **who is lord over us?** 5 For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set *him* in safety *from him that puffs* (*Heb.6315- to blow with the breath or air, to utter*) at him.

- This Psalm should be a warning to any candidate for any office. God is watching you! Whether you believe in Him or not, He is still the One Who will ultimately put you in office and not your constituency. Especially when your constituency, through bias or prejudice, put you there for ungodly reasons in the first place. According to 1 Sam 16:7, we only see your outward appearance but God knows your true intentions since He sees your heart. We understand Gen 6:5 when “God saw the wickedness of man” and the “thoughts of his heart”. He sees your true nature and what you are really about and your fair speeches which could be in reality twisted words of blowing smoke to get yourself elected. He still rules in the Heaven and just because you might think you got away with deceiving the poor, needy and godly, He will not allow you to get off without punishment, maybe not in this life but definitely in the next!

## ----- 2. Personal financial gain.

Voting with our wallets.

Mat 6:24 **No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon** (*Gk.3126- wealth*).

Mat 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father **knoweth that ye have need of all these things.** 33 But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; **and all these things shall be added unto you.** 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

- Many brethren belong to unions that in turn support certain candidates from a portion of their union dues. And many unions, if not the majority, support those whose views

are contrary to those of the Bible. Whether you are in a forced labor union contract or live in a “right to work” state (*where you are not forced to join a union*) whatever the case may be, you should not personally support the endorsed candidate that the union supports who would govern without regard for the conscience and morals of the Christian. And when it comes to gain, any and all our gain comes from God Who owns everything no matter who signs our paychecks! It takes a strong conviction to believe that. And when unions strike based on financial gain, the Christian should **never** join a picket line for that cause.

*Luk 3:12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him (John), Master, what shall we do? 13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. 14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.*

**1Ti 6:5 Perverse disputings of men** (*Picket lines would come under this.*) of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.** **6** But godliness **with contentment** is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. **8** And **having food and raiment** let us be therewith content. **9** But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10** For the **love of money** (*By itself, money isn't evil.*) is the root of all evil: which **while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith**, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Christians should never put financial gain before Biblical teachings! And certain laws to the Jews of the Old Covenant could and do apply to employers today. Times and paydays have changed (*then they were to pay wages daily*) but the concept still applies. Give workers their merited pay based on their service to you when it's due!

*Lev 19:13 Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning (or in modern day, for weeks on end while the employer gains interest on his bank account which the wages kept would bring him).*

- Christians who are employers or employees represent Christ!

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### 3. Benevolence

Taking care of the poor and less fortunate.

- Does the candidate have a record of giving from his/her own means and not by forcing others to do so against Biblical pleas for giving from the heart. Many social programs have taken away any incentive to work. God had a “workfare” system that the Jews of the Old Covenant were to go by and is thus for our learning today (*Rom 15:4*).

*Lev 19:9* And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. **10** And thou shalt not glean (*Heb.5953- to effect thoroughly*) thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather *every* grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt **leave them for the poor and stranger** (*leave it for them to gather, don't just give it to them*): I am the LORD your God.

- Obviously, there are those who cannot work and these are the ones that we, as a society or as individuals, should take care of. Any politician that uses social programs as a way to gain votes is not doing so with sincerity. Constituents, **especially Christians**, should never vote for a candidate that promises to give them anything for nothing because ultimately someone has to work for it.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

Mar 14:7 For ye have the poor with you always, and **whenever ye will ye may do them good**: but Me ye have not always.

1Jn 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels (*Gk.4698- sympathy*) of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

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#### 4. **Biblical (not traditional) marriage.**

- Homosexual marriage, which has become 'traditional' even though not accepted by the majority, should be a factor for every **Christian** in choosing a candidate. The moral majority was outvoted by the outspoken squeaky wheel minority and children are now taught that homes where there are two mothers or two fathers are the norm. Is the candidate for or against this. Both **Old and New Covenants** term homosexuality an abomination. There are many who advocate positions where **Jesus** taught we are to love one another (*Jn 13:34; 15:12*) and that **He** said nothing about this issue in **His** teachings. True, but they conveniently forget to mention the fact that **He** did choose **Paul**, who was led by the **Holy Spirit**, to reveal whatever **He** taught him to disclose. And love is to be kept "out of a pure heart (*clean mind*), and of a good conscience (*moral consciousness*), and faith unfeigned (*sincere conviction*)" (*1 Tim 1:5*).

Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie (*Heb.7901- to lie down [sexual connection]*) with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination (*Heb.8441- properly something disgusting [morally]*).

Rom 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their **women did change the natural use into that which is against nature** (*Not only against scripture.*): 27 And likewise also the **men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly** (*Gk.808- an indecency: shame*), and receiving in themselves that **recompence of their error** which was meet.

Jud 17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 How that they told you there should be **mockers** in the last time (*Christian dispensation*), who should walk (*Gk.4198- live*) **after their own ungodly lusts**.

- **Christians** should never shy away from speaking and standing for sound **Biblical** truths, even when they are not very popular with the mainstream public and to do so out of love for the truth and the precious souls that need to hear it. But...

Isa 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;...

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## 5. Abortion

**Pro 6:16** These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* **an abomination** unto Him: 17  
A proud look, a lying tongue, and **hands that shed innocent blood**,..

- There are many “*reasons*” that are given for killing these unborn, precious, innocent souls. Among them are 1. The responsibility that having a child would bring in keeping the mother from her work, school, pursuing a career or other responsibilities, 2. Cannot afford a child, 3. Do not want the life of a single parent, 4. Too young to be having a child, etc., etc. Other than suffering through an act of rape (*unfortunate as that crime may be it is still no excuse to take a life*), where lies the mature, self-controlled responsibility of having to wait to have sex until after all these listed things are fulfilled and the man and woman are married? So how does the person I’m voting for view this very controversial subject? Would he/she reject or pass laws in favor of or against this issue? Would they bow to special interest groups in favor of abortion in order to get their endorsements?

**Exo 21:22** If men strive (*obviously isn’t including the husband of the woman*), and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit (*Heb.3206- something born, offspring*) depart *from her (miscarriages)*, and yet no mischief follow (*the child does not die*): he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges *determine*. 23 And if *any* mischief follow (*the child dies*), then thou shalt give **life for life**, 24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. (*Just shows that the unborn is not just fetal tissue. And it doesn’t make any difference how along the pregnancy is, it is still a life!*)

*Ecc 11:5 As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God Who maketh all.*

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## 6. Fiscal responsibility.

Getting and staying out of debt.

- Is the candidate in favor of going into debt in order to satisfy his/her constituency when doing the right thing is restraining spending according to budgetary constrictions? If a family has to live responsibly within their earned income shouldn’t government with tax payer funds? We have become indebted to countries that don’t even like us or share our beliefs or morals, as though we seem to have any lately. Ultimately, we work for them as long as they hold our debt.

**Pro 22:7** The rich ruleth over the poor, and **the borrower is servant to the lender.**

**Psa 37:21** The wicked borrows, and pays not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

**Rom 13:8** **Owe no man anything**, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (*Not that you can’t borrow to buy a house, car or clothes. Just that you are to pay your payments on time thus not “technically” owing anyone anything.*)

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## 7. Does the candidate have even a chance at getting elected?

- There are ballots throughout the **U.S.A.** that contain more than two candidates who are running for president. A few years ago one such ballot was in **Louisiana**. A letter from a preacher there stated that he would neither vote for the **Republican** nor the **Democrat** because they didn't profess his values as a **Christian**. He went on to state that, that election had great importance because the next president would pick at least three supreme court justices who would have an influence on the issues spoken of here for decades to come. Yet he chose to vote for a candidate that wasn't even on the nationwide ballot. He claimed he voted his conscience knowing his vote would not matter on election day if he didn't select from the two candidates that were recognized nationally. Wisdom in this is obtainable through sincere prayer and is necessary in deciding how to vote as a **Christian**.

**Jas 1:5** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

**Pro 14:33** Wisdom finds rest in the heart of an understanding person. Even fools recognize this.  
**34** Righteousness lifts up a nation, but sin is a disgrace in any society. (*GW*)

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**Whenever** we go to the polls we need to consider **Biblical** understandings when voting for any candidate for office, whether locally or nationally. Some things to consider are, "How would Jesus vote if He were to live under this system of government today?"; "Would He vote with the understanding of personal gain even when His decision could support the actions of others who go against personal responsibility and morality?"; "Would He vote for the candidate who gave of his own means to help those who are less fortunate before placing that burden on others?"; "Does the candidate believe in and, once in office, support the Biblical institution of marriage as God would have it?"; "Is the candidate "pro-abortion" or "pro-life"?; and last but not least, "Does this candidate believe in balancing, not only his own but, the nation's budget in order to get things in order so that this country could remain morally strong as a nation?" If your candidate can answer these, among other topics you might chose to list, according to the **Biblical** understanding on each, then you have chosen a good candidate because I can not and will not tell you who to vote for. It is no sin if you don't vote, but it is your responsibility (*if of course you are a legal citizen of this country*) as a Christian to uphold moral standing in whatever way you have been given. To be able to vote then, should be considered a blessing we have that many nations don't have. And if you rely on your conscience...

**Heb 13:18** ... have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

**Hear: Romans 10:17** ... "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of **God**."

**Believe: Heb 11:6** ... "for he that commeth to **God** must believe that **He** is"...

**Repent: Lk 13:3** ... "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

**Confess: Mat 10:32** "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

**Be baptized: Acts 22:16** "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the **Lord**."

**Remain faithful: Rom 6:4** ... "even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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