

RELIGION

Let God lead you to election choice on Nov. 4

By SCOTT CARR Sr.
Special to the News

The countdown is on! Ten days to Election Day in America. What an awesome privilege and responsibility we have as Americans to be able to vote for our leaders! Let us not take it for granted.

Who will you be voting for locally, statewide and nationally? How do you base your decisions? May I exhort you to vote from a biblical world view, and not from a humanistic perspective?

Even though many of us are people of faith, we are still humans who are prone to being self-centered. We want what we want when we want it. It is so common for us to obtain what we desire in as short a period of time as possible. We do not like to have to wait for anything for very long thanks to all of our modern conveniences and technological developments.

This view of life often carries over to our view politically. We either feel like our vote is not important, or we want to select those who will expediently serve our personal interests. Let this not be our motivation in this or any other election.

Titus 2:11-14 tells us that God's grace "teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly

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passions" as we look forward to Christ's appearing. He is in the business of purifying His people who are "eager to do what is good." With this in mind, we ought to be seeking God for the candidate who will make decisions that will help take us in this direction. The Bible asks if God will find faith on the earth when Christ returns. Are we truly people of faith who are looking forward to heaven as our eternal home while we make the pilgrimage here? Our true citizenship is not here. We are Christ's followers forever, Americans only for a brief time. Whom can we select that will help build our Lord's eternal kingdom instead of helping us build our temporal kingdoms in the U.S.A.?

Let us vote from God's perspective and according to his perfect will, not his permissive will. Let us do what 2 Chronicles 7:14 says to do, and that is to humble ourselves, pray, seek his face, and turn from our wicked ways so he can hear us, forgive us, and heal our land that is so direly in need of restoration.

Before you cast your vote on Nov. 4, may I offer some food for thought? If we select a candidate who is not going to fully back Israel, then our demise is right around the corner. If we select a candidate who does not believe that life begins at conception, then we will continue to heap the blood guilt upon ourselves for over one million babies legally slaughtered each and every year in this country that we refer to as "one nation under God." If we select a candidate who does not support God's design for marriage as one man and one woman for life, then we are seeking our own passions and lusts, rather than his holiness and best for who he designed us to be and we will continue to spiral downward.

I implore you to be careful as to what you ask God for in prayer. Just like when the children of Israel fervently asked for a king, God gave them one, even though it wasn't his best for them. Please study the word, pray, listen to his voice, and be obedient to what he tells you to do. We are here to serve him; not him serve us. He is the creator and we are the creation; not the other way around. He is the authority we are to submit to. If not, then we

are in serious trouble.

God's word exhorts us to seek God's kingdom and his righteousness first, then everything else will be taken care of in our lives. If we are making our selections for our votes based on fear of the future with our economy, the war in Iraq, or anything else, then we will probably not make the selection God wants us to; however, if we remember to put God's kingdom and his righteousness first again in our lives, our churches, our communities, and our country, then we can trust him to work out the economy, the war in Iraq, and anything and everything else that needs to be taken care of in our lives. Do we trust him? Is he honorable enough to honor his word?

Regardless of who gets elected, my encouragement to you today is that God is sovereign and he is working everything out according to his good pleasure as we approach the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have nothing to fear, because he is in control. And whoever gets elected, please pray for them daily because they are going to need the prayers of God's people and the enablement that only God can give for the times in which we live.

There is nothing we can achieve morally or perform religiously that can add anything to what Christ did for us on the cross. It is all about Jesus giving himself while we were sinners and enemies of God. His grace should compel us to not be self-centered, but rather, Christ-centered and others-centered because we love him with all of our beings and our neighbors as ourselves.

In closing, and I speak to myself as well, please lay aside any agenda that is contrary to God's word and follow his leading, which is the only road that leads to truth, justice, and God's way! He promises to reward those who diligently seek him and he honors those who honor him. Study the word, pray, fast, humble yourself, repent, hear his voice, then be obedient and go vote according to his will. He can be trusted!

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