

Sermon Notes

A Simple Choice - 2Tim 3:1-5

October 25, 2020

I. Introduction

- a. question is **not who** you are voting for, **but what**... what type of America do you want... party platforms are the issue... not party nominees...
Hosea 4:6... **“people are destroyed... lack of knowledge, rejected knowledge...”**
Eph 4:18... **“their minds are full of darkness... wander far from life God gives... because they’ve closed their minds and hardened their hearts against Him...”**
- b. right/wrong already established... PC is trying to decide it apart from God... need HS to guide us into truth... critical **you** are informed... and inform others...
John 16:13... **“HS will guide you into all truth...”**
2Tim 2:2... **“heard me teach... teach truth to others... who will pass it on...”**
Jam 1:5... **“if anyone lacks wisdom... ask God... and it will be given to him...”**
Jam 3:17... **“wisdom from above... pure, gentle, compliant, full of mercy...”**

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. MLK, Jr

- c. elections matter... not just to us, but future generations... God lets us choose our leaders... to me, it’s a **a simple choice**... let’s find out why... **pray**...
Deut 1:13... **“choose... wise, understanding, experienced men... make leader...”**
2Tim 3:1-5... **“in the last days there will be difficult times... people will love only themselves and their money... scoffing at God... they’ll consider nothing sacred... be cruel and hate what is good... love pleasure rather than God... act religious, but reject power that could make them godly... avoid them...”**

II. Simple Choice

- a. not about politics... about future of America... honored/blessed because we were a Christian nation... church was expected to be involved in it...
Psa 33:12... **“blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...”**
Psa 37... **“put your hope in the Lord... honor you by giving you the land...”**
- b. as of August, only 6% of churches operating as normal... 75-80% watching online... what happens when churches remain silent...
CA - CA churches limited to 100 or fine of \$1000 day... 1000’s at numerous misc protests not stopped... Lakers celebration drew 1000’s, erupted in violence, 30 bldgs damaged, 8 police hurt... Gov Newsom, *we ask people to be cautious as they celebrate...* county agents sent to North Valley Baptist church to *observe* congregation... singing is banned in church, while other open establishments, such as protests, can engage in singing, chanting or loud yelling... **Sources:** CNN, FRC, ACLJ
NV - churches can be limited to 50 people while limiting casinos to 50% capacity (100’s or 1000’s)... US Supreme Court... justices did not explain... **Source:** USA Today
MS - Greenville police issued \$500 tickets to worshippers at drive-in service... pastor was told his rights were *suspended*... Holly Springs Easter service broken up by police, eventually burned down, *I bet you stay home now hypokrits*... **Source:** FRC
KY - Louisville police took license plate numbers at Easter... told worshippers to stay home 14 days or face consequences... set up hotline to report churches... **Source:** FRC
OK - Tulsa police prohibit Common Ground from having parking lot service. FRC

- b. **IL** - blocked area around Elim Church and sent police to block parking lot to prevent people from attending services... Metro Praise and Philadelphia Romanian churches fined for meeting in person... **Source:** Family Research Council
IN - churches, and only churches, in South Bend/Ft Wayne have been asked to shut down indoor services and go online only until March 2021... **Source:** WNDU TV
NJ - Centro Familia church fined for holding services... pastor was given two citations for breaking Governor Murphy’s order 107 limiting gatherings... **Source:** FRC
NY - NYC mayor DeBlasio threatened churches with shutdowns, fines, closing bldg permanently if orders not to meet were violated... **Source:** FRC
- c. primarily policies of one party have resulted in those decisions... which party... that’s why it’s critical for **you** to know the **party platforms**...
Matt 24:4-14... **“hand over for persecution and death... hated because of me...”**
Acts 4:15-31... **“let’s threaten them against speaking in the name of Jesus...”**

Abortion and Life

- Rep** - sanctity of human life... unborn has right to life... oppose public funds for abortion
Dem - complete access to abortion... remove barriers... federal funding... oppose born-alive...

Marriage/Family

- Rep** - family is foundation of society... marriage is one man, one woman... kids need mom and dad...
Dem - traditional marriage not mentioned... advance ability of all regardless of who they love...

Religious Liberty

- Rep** - freedom to act in accordance with beliefs... right of religious leaders to speak freely...
Dem - paramount importance of *separation*... reject exemptions for businesses, medical providers... Equality Act would remove religious liberty protections, force churches to violate their faith...

LGBT/Transgender/Women’s School Sports

- Rep** - all should be treated with dignity and respect... parents should determine proper medical treatment... opposes Obama-era transgender bathrooms... opposes redefining of women’s sports...
Dem - supports transition surgery and hormone therapy for children... allow biological men to compete in women’s sports... prohibit counseling to assist people with same sex attraction...

Education/Sex Education

- Rep** - school choice... parents have responsibility... foremost educators... right to direct education... supports risk-avoidance that sets abstinence until marriage as responsible behavior...
Dem - government’s responsibility that every child receives world-class education... supports LGBT sex education with a full range of *family planning* services...

God in Government

- Rep** - God-given rights always prevail... support Judeo-Christian heritage... mentioned 15 times...
Dem - silent on role of God in government, human rights... maintain *separation* of Church/State...

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- d. public record... truth, not opinion... study **party platforms**... get informed...
Isa 5... **“woe to those who call evil good, good evil... wise in own opinion...”**
2Cor 11... **“disguise as apostles of Christ... servants of righteousness...”**
- e. freedom comes in threes... political, economic, religious... take one away, others disappear, can’t survive alone... not a vote for individuals, but vote for the America you want... to me, it’s a **simple choice**... **pray**...

In Their Own Words

Sermon Study

A Simple Answer - 2Tim 3:1-5 - October 25, 2020

It is necessary for every citizen to examine and judge for himself various political principles and measures. Let us examine, with a Christian spirit, and let us neglect all party loyalty and hold to the facts. Let us take no man's word against evidence, nor adopt the sentiments of others who may be deceived themselves... or may be interested in deceiving us. **John Adams (1763)**

Government is instituted for the common good, for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people. Not for the profit, honor, or private interest of any one man or family. The people alone have a right to reform, alter, or totally change the government. **John Adams (1776)**

The fabric of American empire ought to rest on the solid basis of the CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE. The streams of national power ought to flow from that pure, original fountain of all legitimate authority. **Alexander Hamilton (1787)**

I predict future happiness for Americans... IF they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them. Should things go wrong at any time... the people will set them to rights by the peaceable exercise of their elective rights. When people fear government, there is tyranny. When government fears people, there is freedom. **Thomas Jefferson**

Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God. **Ben Franklin**

The preservation of government depends on the faithful discharge of its people to vote. If the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted. **Noah Webster**

We heard the minister speak on *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you*. There is great pleasure in hearing sermons so serious, so clear, so sensible, and so instructive as these. **John Adams**

What we face now is no longer a foreign threat. The present madness has arisen from our own soil, cultivated and encouraged by our own politicians. The church ministers to the sick and hurting; it doesn't hide in the darkness. We are doing that thru the simple act of gathering together in worship. Jesus touched lepers and we need His healing touch now. People need the bold, warm embrace of God's love. Our fists are not held up in defiance; are hands are lifted in praise. Our voices are not raised in shouts of hatred, but with songs of hope and revival. **Sean Feucht**

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones, praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the Lord. He loves righteousness and justice. The Lord frustrates the counsel of the nations, he thwarts the plans of the people. The plans of His heart stand forever from generation to generation. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Our hearts rejoice in Him, because we trust in His name. We put our hope in you, Lord. **Psa 33**

Trust in the Lord and do good, then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper. The wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the Lord will possess the land. The strength of the wicked will be shattered. I have never seen the godly abandoned. The Lord loves justice, and He will never abandon the godly. Put your hope in the Lord. He will honor you by giving you the land. You will see the wicked destroyed. **Psa 37**

1. Read **Hosea 4:6** and **Eph 4:18**. What **parallels** do you see in those verses to the state that our country is in today? What is the **answer**?
2. Before you vote... who should you **listen** to? Read **John 16:13...** **Jam 1:5; 3:17**. Should you **share** that info? Read **2Tim 2:2**.
3. Read **Deut 1:13** and **2Tim 3:1-5**. Should deciding who to vote for really be a **difficult choice**? Why or why not?
4. How do you think the church should respond to unfair policies which **restrict only churches** and not other businesses? Read **Matt 24:4-14** and **Acts 4:15-31**. Are you willing to speak out?
5. Take some time to read thru the **party platforms**. How does **biblical Christianity** line up with each platform? Do you think God cares which way His people vote? Explain.
6. Read **Jer 29:7...** **Rom 13:1...** **1Tim 2:1-2...** **1Pet 2:17**. We are called not only to vote... but to **pray** for our leaders. Please join us in a special time of prayer and praise on Sunday, Nov 1st at 6pm.
7. Don't forget the **handouts** at the back of the church will deal with **how to pray** for our leaders and the party platforms. You are free to make copies and **distribute** as many of them as you wish.