

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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May a Christian vote?

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Christians are citizens of a heavenly kingdom. With hopeful hearts set on heaven, “we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ” to return and take us to our eternal heavenly home (*Philippians 3:20*). Until then we “seek the things that are above” (*Colossians 3:1*). At the same time, we are to honor our secular leaders, and obey governmental laws (*I Peter 2:17, 13-14*).

As citizens of the United States, we have the opportunity to vote this coming Tuesday. God has not explicitly commanded us to vote, nor specifically condemned the practice. May then a Christian vote?

When Christianity began, voting in the Roman Republic had practically ended. Octavian, the great nephew of Julius Caesar, viewed himself as the “first citizen.” He became the first “Emperor” of Rome in 27 B.C. Going to the polls to vote for the next Emperor was non-existent.

We have a “say-so” in promoting God’s purpose for the government we live under. Government is ordained to promote “good” and prosecute “evil” (*Romans 13:1-4*). God wants all to know that government is ordained of God. It functions as

God’s appointed minister, and is an immediate avenger of God’s wrath upon those who violate its protective laws.

Christians are to not only be the “light of the world,” but also the “salt of the earth.” As luminaries, we hold forth “the word of life” of salvation to those in this dark world of sin. We must also as “salt” be a preservative stopping the spread of evil (*Philippians 2:15-16, Matthew 5:15-16*). We glorify God by focusing on the priority to save souls from sin, preparing them for the coming universal judgment of God (*I Peter 2:12*). But we can also “glorify God” as “salt” by choosing governmental leaders who will stop the spread of evil.

We have with our vote an opportunity to choose who will lead the secular government we live under, including the local authorities carrying out governmental duties. We also have good indicators as to how they will lead. This year we have before us at least two leading candidates who will lead in opposite directions. For example, one who has served as the Vice President for a term, has permitted open borders, allowing illegal immigrants to enter without proper vetting. Therefore, “evil” has been allowed to

“enter illegally” which has allowed convicted criminals to not only enter our borders, but rape and murder in our streets. One candidate, who has served previously for four years as President promises to close the borders to protect us as citizens, and deport those who have entered illegally. We know he will because he did it when he served as President.

Jesus chose twelve apostles from the many disciples who followed Him and His teaching. One was Matthew who served the Roman government as a “tax collector” (*Matthew 10:3*). Another was Simon the “Zealot” (*Cananaean*) (*Matt. 10:4*). He was connected to a Jewish political sect whose agenda was to obtain freedom from Roman occupation and Rome’s rule in their land. Freedom was the goal, even if it meant intimidation and killing. He may have initially followed Jesus, thinking Jesus was the one to free the Jews, but soon learned they Jesus’ mission was to free man from sin. In Christ, a former “zealot” against Rome and a “tax collector” for Rome could unify having a higher purpose. Focused upon promoting heavenly things, we can also promote good and resist evil upon earth. Do this Tuesday with an informed vote!