

WELL, HERE WE ARE!!!

Well here we are. We are about two weeks away from Election Day here in the United States. There are many different things that we as Americans will need to vote for this year- primarily, the election of the President of the United States of America. In this essay I will not try to sway you to vote one way or another. I believe very strongly that it is a decision that every individual needs to make from His or her own heart and spirit. I also firmly believe that if you are able to vote, that it is your duty to vote.

It is the right of every American citizen to vote. Many men and women have given their lives for us to continue to have that right. It is because of the lives that were given and the blood that has been shed over the years since this country has been birthed that it is imperative for every American citizen who has the privilege to vote to do just that – vote.

If we are truthful with ourselves, we can see that there is really not a clear choice for who we are to vote for – especially in the national races. However, it is the right of every citizen to look diligently into each of the candidates, their positions and their lives, the best we can to help us make a clear decision. Of course, the most important thing anyone needs to do is to pray for God’s wisdom and guidance in who we are to vote for and therefore, who we want to be in office.

Ultimately, we should desire, for all of the Lord’s purposes and plans, who the leadership of each and every nation should be. Ultimately, it is the Lord who is in the position of using whomever is in any position of government to bring forth His plans for the future of, not just our lives now, but for the bringing forth of His Kingdom upon the earth.

We, as God’s people, are called to pray for the leaders of our nation. Now, as we elect someone to lead this nation for the next four years, we are especially called and need to pray for God’s will to be accomplished. We must remember that, if you are a child of God, you are a “sojourner” living on this earth as well as the country you dwell in. Yes, we have rights and we have the privilege of voting for our leaders in this country. However, our first allegiance must be to the one and only true and living God.

We must believe that He already knows who will be in leadership of this nation for the next four years. In whichever way the election turns out, we must always keep our eyes fixed upon the One and only true leader in our lives – Jesus, our Lord and our Savior, the Son of the Most High God. We must keep in mind that our nation is just one of the hundreds of nations upon this earth right now. Our God knows exactly what each nation is to do as He brings forth all of the “end time” prophecies upon this earth.

Of course our minds are fixed upon our nation. However, we must always keep in mind that our God is in control and is doing what He is doing in every area of this earth. Our God is in total control of all things upon this earth. He knows and is aware of every facet of every nation, tribe and tongue that is upon this earth.

Yes, we are to pray. However, we are to pray that His will be accomplished and that His plans for Jesus’ second coming will be accomplished and be accomplished - His way. Now, we must always keep in mind that His ways do not always seem to match up with our plans and our ways. That is where our faith in Him and Him alone comes into play. Do we truly trust Him? Are we truly sojourners? Are we the people who belong to a separate and different Kingdom that is not on this earth? Most importantly, do we truly believe all of those things just mentioned?

Jesus continually preached this thought to His followers. The Letters of Paul, Peter, John and all of the New Testament writers continually tell and teach us this fact. Yes, it is a fact. We as believers are to live differently than those who do not believe. We follow after a Kingdom that is to come. It is not yet here upon this earth. The key word is – yet. It is coming.

Yes, it is coming. However, it is coming with many trials and circumstances that will confront the true believer in Christ. Whichever scenario you may believe for the end times concerning if we will be here or the Lord will take us away, there will still be times of great trial ahead. For those who will be here upon this earth when that time does come, it will mean the endurance of all the end time prophecies concerning the Antichrist and his rule upon this earth.

There will be all the “end time” prophetic words given throughout the scriptures taking place and unfolding. Some of these will include Armageddon, the plagues and pestilence that are foretold in the Book of Revelation and yes, as stated previously, the Antichrist. All these will culminate with Jesus’ return as the Book of Revelation so graciously lets us know.

This is where the heart of the true believer in Jesus always needs to be. Yes, we are to be concerned for and always do our part as well as pray for the events that are happening around us including the election of our next President. However, we are always to be turning our heart towards Him and crying out for His grace, mercy and peace to be shed upon and revealed to those who truly love Him and are called His own.

In the midst of our prayers for the next President, as well as the end times, the greatest thing that we are to remember is that all these things will soon come to a close. The time of Jesus’ return is coming soon. This is what the true believer always needs to keep in the forefront of his or her mind and thoughts.

Unfortunately, there are many things that will always try to keep us thinking in a different direction. The trials of life, the difficulties that always seem to rise up, as well as situations and circumstances that seem to, many times, take our mind and thoughts off of those things that are to be so vital to a true child of God.

Jesus told us this many times and it is repeatedly stated by the writers of the New Testament. Yes, the New Testament writers give us clear direction and purpose as we are living through our everyday lives. However, we must never forget that the writers of the New Testament were always looking forward and encouraging the believer that, even though we are to live our lives as His people on this earth, this is not our home. As I stated previously, we are sojourners.

The basic definition of a “sojourner” is that it is a Hebrew term and its translation conveys the basic idea that a person (or group) is residing, either temporarily or permanently, in a community and place that is **not** primarily their own and is dependent on the “good-will” of that community for their continued existence. It means to be a “temporary” resident; a stranger or traveler who dwells in a place “for a time.”

It is vital for us to understand that the term “sojourner” means to be a **temporary** resident. It means that we are not living in our true “homeland.” In other words we have now been changed from who and what we were. We each were natives of someplace on this earth. Now, through the blood of Jesus, each of us has been changed. We are no longer what we were. Rather, we are someone totally new.

The scriptures tell us that we have become a totally “new species of being.” The old has passed away and behold each of us has been made into a totally “brand new” species of being. The true believer is now a child of God who has a new “homeland” which ultimately will be in Heaven one day. Some enter into that “homeland” as they pass from this earth through their physical death. Others one day will enter into it when we will be caught up by Jesus into the Heavenly realm. Either way, we must always remember that we are “sojourners” as we live here upon this earth.

So what does all of this have to do with the upcoming election in our nation? The fact of the matter is that each of us has a responsibility to the nation that we are living in as well as this whole earth. The “order” of things that must be made known in this hour may need to be revisited by all His believers during these end times.

The very first order of business for each us is to grasp and understand is that all who believe in Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior are all, as I mentioned, sojourners upon this earth. The very first thing each and every one of God's people needs to do is to grasp, understand and then live out the fact that we are **His** children - **first**. His purposes must be our primary concern. His plans must be what we trust in, rely on and depend upon for our lives. This may mean that some of our own thoughts and desires for the way things are to be may need to change. Hmmm. That may be difficult for some of us.

I believe we must return back to His Word and His Word alone. It is His Word that is the final authority. It is His Word that we are to trust and depend on for our lives. It is His Word and only His Word that we are to live our lives upon.

Secondly, we are to make sure our families know and grasp these truths so that they can stand fast in the midst of the things that will come. This is vital for all of us to do whether we are parents or children, married or single, grandparents or grandchildren. We are each responsible to tell the truth to all those who the Lord has placed in our lives.

Thirdly, we must tell the world, or anyone who would listen, the glorious truth of Jesus and the love of the Father for all of His most prized creations – every person upon the earth. This includes times such as we are in – election time. Regardless of how the election turns out, we are now and forever citizens of another place – the Heavenly Kingdom.

However, the fact remains that while we are on this earth we are to obey the laws of the land in which we live in. The law of the United States is that every four years we vote for the President of the United States as well as other officials. As believers, we are to vote, not according to our natural ways of thinking and not what we naturally would want or desire, but rather by the laws and precepts of the living God. Ultimately, we are to vote according to our spirit being and God's plans, not our naturally or culturally trained mind.

This is difficult for many of us to plan for and even do. However, this is what we, as children of the Most High God, are called to do and must do. We are to put aside our own agendas. There needs to be only one agenda – God's agenda and the bringing forth of His Kingdom upon this earth.

If we are honest we will see that this election is bringing much divisiveness among believers. This ought not to be. If anything there should be and ultimately must be a unity of the spirit and purpose within every one of God's people in this country – as well as for the entire earth. This, I know, within the mindset of people in this hour and in these times is very, very difficult. However, if we are people of the most High God; if we are truly not of this earth; if we are truly "sojourners" in the land we are in, then our hearts must be for His plans and purposes to come to pass. Ultimately, each one of God's people is not truly Republican, Democrat, Independent, Socialist, Communist or any other political party.

Every one of those true believers is a "joint heir" with Jesus whose true homeland is the Kingdom of Heaven. God was, is and always will be upon the Throne. As His people, we must all truly act as such – His people. Yes, we are all called to vote. We are called to vote for His purposes upon the earth. Ultimately, that should be the priority of each believer's heart – God's purposes to be accomplished.

God is God. That is the primary and ultimate truth. I pray that each of **HIS** true believers upon this earth understands and is totally committed to this understanding and His truth. This Election Day, we as His people are called to vote – and each of us should and must. The result of the election is in God's hands and in His plan. Each of us must truly believe without a shadow of a doubt that God is truly in control – no matter what we may think or see.

The final thing that I would like to do is to encourage every one of God's people who dwell in and who are members of this country, the United States of America, to do what we each one of us is entitled to do at this time – vote.