

Would You Vote for Jesus?

‘The pastor was annoyed by one of his members who constantly slept during the sermon. One day he noticed the man sleeping again and decided to do something about it. He stopped his sermon and said, “Now I want to take a vote. Everyone here who doesn’t care a thing about this church, who wishes that the official board was fired and the pastor would quit—stand up!” The sleeper woke up with a start. All he heard was, “Stand up!” He jumped to his feet, stood for a moment and then, looking around, said, “Pastor, I don’t know what we’re voting for, but it looks like you and I are the only ones for it”.’

Well, at least the man was honest in saying he didn’t know what he was voting for. It’s amazing that he knew that a vote, even a pretend one, was being taken. There’s a saying I’ve often seen, printed on stickers and posters, and displayed prominently at a church I pastored in the past, said, “Vote for Jesus”. In general, that’s a good and proper sentiment. But exactly what does it mean? Here on this Republican Party primary absentee ballot, there are no less than 21 names seeking to become Missouri’s next senator. On the Democratic side, an additional 11 people are seeking votes. The Libertarian and Constitution parties are both fielding 1 candidate each. Out of all those 34 names, not

one of them is Jesus of Nazareth. So who does one vote for?

Since our Lord is obviously not on most civil government ballots, when we admonish each other to Vote for Jesus, it means to vote for the candidate that is most Christlike, or who the modern-day prophets agree is the Lord's will. With that qualification in mind, one could question whether it was God's will for the disaster that is Joe Biden to become our current president. Well, here's a perfect example of God's perfect will verses His permissive will. In the 2020 election, the obvious choice for Christ followers was the incumbent, Donald Trump. A modern-day Cyrus, that ancient King of Persia, Trump did more to attract God's blessings on America than any previous president by not only recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's eternal and undivided capital, but by actually moving our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. I've mentioned before the reactions of several Orthodox Jews I saw during my visit to Israel later that year during the Feast of Tabernacles annual Jerusalem March. Those Jews, when the American delegation of marchers came into view, burst out in tears of joy and thanksgiving. To see these long-bearded, grown men sobbing upon the sight of us, was, truly unforgettable.

And conditions in America then were going so well. We were energy independent. What a concept! The economy was buzzing. Minority incomes were higher than ever. Fewer people proportionally lived below the poverty line than ever. And during the election, more people voted than ever before. Trump got way

more votes than he did in 2016. Yet, somehow, Joe Biden got even more votes—some 81 million votes. The greatest number in history. Of course, those of us who pay attention to such things know that that election was the most fraudulent in American history. And that was precisely one of the reasons why God, in His permissive will, allowed Biden and the Democrats to take control in Washington, D.C. God's purpose was to wake up the Church, and the American public at large. We'd been essentially asleep for the last half century, and during that time, the devil's elaborate plans had been advancing apace and were nearing the tipping point beyond which America as a country dedicated to Christ Jesus and the propagation of His Gospel would be permanently lost. If God hadn't allowed the travesty of the 2020 election to occur, the depths of the depravity and corruption in our national and state governments would never have come to light in time.

Right now, there are clear factions within both major political parties. The Green New Deal democratic socialist communists represented by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, as well as St. Louis' own Cori Bush, is the faction of the Democrats mostly controlling the president and the Congress. A smaller, more moderate faction, represented by Joe Manchin, senator from West Virginia, has so far been thwarting the most extreme spending proposals. On the Republican side, there are similarly basically two factions. One that represents the "donor-class", the establishment Republicans, I call them the country-club Republicans, versus the Trump-

supporting and Trump-supported Make America Great Again voters. Let me quote Mollie Hemingway who wrote earlier this week in *The Federalist*, an article justifiably condemning a just released, untrue 72-page report from a group of Never Trumpers titled “Lost, Not Stolen: The Conservative Case that Trump Lost and Biden Won the 2020 Presidential Election”. Hemingway critiques the report’s authors, among them one quite familiar to most of us in this room. “Former Sen. John Danforth of Missouri, another co-author, thought the Republican Party was too conservative by 2005, arguing in The New York Times that it had become a party overtaken by conservative Christians. Danforth, an Episcopal priest, was a public supporter of efforts to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples. He has said the worst mistake he ever made was supporting Sen. Josh Hawley’s political aspirations.”

Well, Episcopal priest or no priest, he obviously doesn’t believe God’s Holy Bible. To give credit where it is due, we must also be thankful to God for Danforth, because it was he who personally shepherded the 1991 confirmation process in the Senate which resulted in one of the best justices currently serving on the Supreme Court, Justice Clarence Thomas. But Danforth is no friend of Christian conservatives, now, if ever. He has personally committed much of what remains of the Danforth family fortune to the defeat of former Governor Eric Greitens in his bid to win the Republican primary for U.S. Senate, according to a recent interview on Channel 5. Which begs the question, why? Because,

like Donald Trump, Eric Greitens is neither beholden to, nor controllable by, establishment Republicans. This is why Greitens was forced to resign from office after the bogus charges he had broken the law by taking an obscene photograph. He admitted to and repented of the affair with the family's hairdresser. Notably, his wife stood by him through that sordid period of his life. Now, suddenly, after being divorced two years, she's been bought off to file charges of spousal and child abuse against him. Just weeks before the primary election. How convenient. Turns out, billionaire George Soros has spent monies on her behalf, while St. Louis' own RINO billionaire Rex Sinquefeld and Nebraska's governor Pete Ricketts have both bankrolled the current ad campaign against him. All of which, again, begs the question, why?

Just last week, the House approved the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. Though it probably, thankfully, won't pass the Senate, this act codifies into law that mixed-race (of course) and same-sex (big no no!) marriages are legal and must be recognized anywhere in the United States. Of the yes votes, shockingly 47 were Republicans, and among them, St. Louis County's Ann Wagner. She, along with Danforth, apparently believes that God's Word is not a principal worth standing up for.

If we vote for Jesus, we stand up for God's Word, whether it wins or not at the ballot box. We stand for what's right, for God's will, whether it's popular or not. For Him Who specifically came to earth to excruciatingly die for us, knowing it ahead of time, do we

dare do any less?

And now, consider the Lord Himself when He came. He wasn't on any ballots back then, had there even been elections. But it was quite apparent that He did not care one whit about gaining the support of the establishment of the day. Shall we call them the JINOs, Jews In Name Only folks? Luke 11:37-52 records Him sending a series of insulting, uncivilized tweets to the establishment Jews. I'm sorry, did I say "tweets"? He said these things to their faces. And the educated class too, the religious lawyers and scribes, complained, saying, in verse 45: "You have insulted us, too, in what You just said". So insulted they all were, verses 53-54 report, "As Jesus was leaving, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees became hostile and tried to provoke Him with many questions. They wanted to trap Him into saying something they could use against Him". Sounds just like what's going on in our world today. It's the political establishment against the Bible and those who truly believe it. If you'd been among the crowds back then, would you have supported the Lord Jesus? Would you have voted for Him, or would you have wanted to maintain your position of respect among the religious leaders, the establishment, the monied and powerful people of the day? Would you have stood up for the right back then? Even if it meant eventual death? All the original twelve apostles except John, were martyred. Are you willing to die for Him even today? If so, then speak up, vote, and stand up.

