

## Upcoming Events



Troy United Women in Faith Fundraiser

# **Fashion Show Salad & Dessert Buffet Silent Auction**

**Saturday, May 4 - Doors open at 11:00 a.m.**

**Tickets on sale now!**

[troymc.org/events](http://troymc.org/events)

# **Membership Class & Lunch**

**Sunday, May 5 @ 11:45 a.m.**

**Upper Family Life Center**

**RSVP: [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org)**

**[troymc.org/events](http://troymc.org/events)**



**See our website for more information – [troymc.org/events](http://troymc.org/events)**

## Message Notes

April 21, 2024

### **You Asked For It: *How should a Christian decide how to vote?* Matthew 13:24-46 (and many others!)**

A great resource and recommended book written in 2020 by David Platt, *Before You Vote: Seven Questions Every Christian Should Ask*.

#### **Should a Christian vote?**

(Approach from a Christian worldview which assumes that we are followers of Jesus, saved by his grace alone, and who trust the Bible as God's authoritative Word for faith and practice.)

- God is the ruler of all things
- God entrusts humanity with ruling on his behalf
- Humanity is sinful and rebellious therefore no government or leader is perfectly good
- God still entrusts humanity with ruling on his behalf
- As Christians we are to be subject to our governing authorities (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)
- In the USA we are not only the governed, but also responsible for the governing --> therefore Christians have a responsibility to steward our votes well.

#### **We are FIRST residents of God's Kingdom**

- Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30) - Until Jesus returns (the harvest), God's Kingdom and it's citizens (the wheat) will live among and interact with the kingdoms of this world (the weeds)
- Parable of the Mustard Seed and Parable of the Yeast (Matthew 13:31-34) - God's Kingdom starts small and is hard to get rid of! It infiltrates and irritates its surroundings (because its values stand in such sharp contrast to the world).
- Consider God's Kingdom values from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7): Blesses the meek and merciful, Seeks peace and justice, Has high sexual standards, Pursues righteousness and holiness, Is humble and serves for the well-being of others – particularly the most vulnerable, Loves enemies and refuses to take revenge, Promotes self sacrificing generosity
- Parable of the Hidden Treasure and Parable of the Pearl of Great Value (Matthew 13:44-46) - Living in God's Kingdom is the best life has to offer and has incomparable worth!

#### **How Should a Christian decide how to vote?**

1. Evaluate the issues from a Kingdom (biblical) perspective
  - a. The Bible speaks directly into some issues
  - b. The Bible speaks indirectly into other issues
  - c. There are MANY issues and bible-believing Christians can land in different places about how to best honor God in many of the issues.
2. Weigh the issues on
  - a. Their Biblical clarity - how clear the Bible is on the issue?
  - b. Their practical consequences - how much will the election affect things practically?

#### **Preserve the Church's unity**

John Wesley's advice on elections from his journal on October 6, 1774:

*Vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy,*

*Speak no evil of the person they voted against, and*

*Take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.*