

**DATE:** October 30, 2016

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Dale Oquist

**TITLE:** #45 Who will it be and does it matter? Part III

## **What are the qualities you should look for when voting for a candidate or proposition?**

### **LOOKING BACK:** Psalms 146 and Psalms 72

The purpose of this series must get us to see beyond the immediate and to get a grander view upon the kingdom of God. It is to get us to see the Comprehensive Reality of History. The comprehensive reality of history is breaking human existence. “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” The kingdom comes through the church and comes through the commonwealth. The commonwealth is a governing system for all.

### **1. Do you think of others before going or not going to church?**

Our current culture believes that the commonwealth is the best for me and not we. We think of terms of ourselves and not everybody else’s needs. We believe that people shouldn’t trample on our rights or freedoms. We demand tolerance for all, except for the people who don’t agree with us. This is not the commonwealth. We want to be diverse, but the glory of God is found in diversity. We need to follow the steps of Jesus, and come to serve and not to be served (Mark 10:45). The commonwealth could be decided to go to church on a Sunday because somebody might need me to pray for them.

### **DIGGING DEEPER:**

Before voting we, all should pray to God, “Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Pastor Dale shared four principles you should use when casting your vote. The four principles are:

**Principle 1:** Support wise government officials and laws. Hopefully the candidates will respect the divine law then they will respect the constitutional law. Hopefully these candidates are God fearing. A God fearing candidate understands that a higher authority is there where they must answer to.

**Principle 2:** Stand against the candidate that won’t choke the life out of the church. If the candidate doesn’t let the church be the church, then they shouldn’t have your vote. Psalms 72:12-14.

**Principle 3:** Vote for the candidate that serves justice. When you serve justice, you are going to help and give aid to those who might not be able to pay you back

**Principle 4:** Vote for the candidate that promotes household economy. A tough economy has a major impact on households. A tough economy doesn’t motivate fatherhood and families. Vote for an empowering government and not for an enabling economy. If government doesn’t serve, then it enslaves you.

### **2. Why must we have a God-fearing candidate when voting?**

A God-fearing candidate understands that a higher authority is there where they must answer to.

### **3. What are ways that a governmental official can serve justice?**

All of us can serve justice by getting involved within our community to help the less fortunate. This could include helping the Community Food Bank, Poverello House, Fresno Rescue Mission, Marjaree Mason Center and much more.

**TAKING IT HOME:**

The tone of the Psalms 146 & 72 is positive in the midst of the negativity from the current government. We are not in a time where we should be cynical regarding this current election. We put our hope in the God who will reign forever. In I Corinthians 11, Paul is writing the church stating that it might be better to not even meet if you are only thinking about your own needs. Paul then reminds them that there isn't diversity of thought when it comes to Jesus. An election is won or lost is when God casts His vote. We must still vote because God uses our votes to accomplish His will. Our leaders might not be Godly leaders, but we must put our trust in God because He gets the last say. God will put whoever He wants in place.

We have more that reminds us than that divides us because Jesus is the one that brings us together.

We need to vote as a citizen of the kingdom of God and not as a citizen of the United States.

**4. How can we experience a community of commonwealth?**