

10-22-2016, COTR Texarkana

- ☐ Title: Judges Matter
- ☐ Purpose: Educate people about election issues and the power of Judges in American government and provoke people to vote Biblical values.
- ☐ Spiritual Truth: My vote matters.
- ☐ Text: Psalm 33:12, Proverbs 14:34
- ☐ Topic: Voting, Election, Character, President, Judges

Judges Matter

I. Introduction

- A. Proverbs 14:34 (NCV) **Doing what is right makes a nation great**, but sin will bring disgrace to any people.
 - 1. The Bible offers guidance to every decision we make. If we as a nation choose God's ways, i.e. doing right, we'll be great. If we ignore God's ways, i.e. do wrong, we'll be disgraced. There is especially true in election season.
- B. Tony Perkins, FRC, thoughts on the Presidential election, 10-11-16, "Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place". In an election between two people who have said and done things that stand in contradiction to biblical values and truths, Christians are intently wrestling with what they should do. For some, the temptation to throw in the towel and walk away has been overwhelming. As an individual, I publicly supported and campaigned for a candidate in the primary with whom I had shared values and a shared worldview. He didn't prevail. So now, faced with choosing between two candidates that are far from ideal and a nation on the brink, **what are Christians called to do?**
- C. This is the question I will address today: what are Christians called to do? How do I decide who I will vote for? I'm not here to promote a political party. I won't tell you who to vote for but I will offer some Biblical guidance about how to decide.
- D. Picture Donkeys and Elephants have divided our nation, but I choose the Lamb of God. I'm a Christian before I'm R or D, man or woman, black/ white/ Hispanic/ Asian. Don't let politics divide us. Our part in the KOG is far more important than any political party. When election day passes the eternal KOG will march triumphantly forward.
- E. Early voting in AR and TX starts Monday. (bulletin insert) We have non-partisan voter education material after service that will show you where candidates stand on issues. I've decided about President but I don't know about 6 judges in TX and RR Com. I need help. I want to know what they believe. I ask people I trust and read the voter guide.
 - 1. Pastor Tony Evans, African American pastor in Dallas, chaplain to Mavericks and Cowboys has a recommendation for voting. Make a sheet of paper with 4 columns. 1st column list the issue; 2nd column what Democrats say; 3rd what Republicans say; 4th what God says. Pray, prioritize the issues, & vote.
 - 2. Today's message we'll talk about how our government works, history, current events and then we'll look at 3 issues from a Biblical pov.
- F. Title: Judges Matter

- G. Purpose: Educate people about election issues and the power of Judges in American government and provoke people to vote Biblical values.
- H. Spiritual Truth: My vote matters.

II. Biblical qualifications for leaders

- A. People in the Bible didn't have elections like we do today. However, we can learn about the character of people we should elect to serve in government.
 - 1. Context: advice to Moses re. qualifications for leaders in civil affairs: Ex. 18:21 (NCV) But choose some **capable men** from among the people—**men who respect God, who can be trusted, and who will not change their decisions for money...**
 - 2. John Jay, 1st Supreme Court Justice: "Providence (*God*) has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty...to select and prefer Christians for their rulers. The Americans are the first people whom Heaven has favored with an opportunity of... choosing the forms of government under which they should live."
- B. We have a problem. Neither major party Presidential candidate has Biblical character.
 - 1. Picture: Presidential Protest. Many of us feel this way, i.e. Mickey Mouse.
 - 2. Picture Clinton and Trump. 1st question from 2nd debate: We received a lot of questions online, Mr. Trump, about the tape that was released on Friday. You called what you said "locker room banter." You described kissing women without consent, grabbing their genitals (privates). That is sexual assault...
 - 3. Picture Bill Clinton and his sexual assault accusers with Hillary working behind the scenes to discredit the women and defend Bill.
 - 4. Neither presidential candidate has Biblical character. However, one of them will be elected and make decisions that will affect us and our children for generations.
 - a The decisions the new President will make that will affect us the most is the appointment of Supreme Court justices.

III. The Supreme Court (picture with 8 justices, Scalia died)

- A. The appointment clause of the Constitution says the President shall have the Power...to appoint **Judges of the supreme Court**, and all other Officers of the United States...
 - 1. As of September 13, 2016, President has appointed President Obama appointed and the Senate confirmed 329 federal judges including 2 Supreme Court judges.
- B. The Supreme Court has made many unbiblical decisions in the past:
 - 1. In 1857, the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case ruled that people of African ancestry, slave or free, could never become citizens of the United States.
 - 2. In 1962 the Supreme Court ruled it is unconstitutional for state officials to open the school day in prayer in public schools.
 - 3. In 1963 the Supreme Court struck down a Pennsylvania law requiring that each public school day open with Bible reading.
 - 4. In 1968 The Supreme Court struck down an Arkansas law prohibiting the teaching of evolution.
 - 5. In 1973 the Supreme Court created a woman's right to an abortion.
 - 6. In 1980 the Supreme Court ruled that a Kentucky law posting the 10 commandments in public school classrooms was unconstitutional.

7. In 2015 the Supreme Court ruled that by a 5 to 4 vote that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage.
 - a 9 men and women effectively govern America often in opposition to the will of the people. The next President will appoint Scalia's successor. 3 more justices are older than 78. Judges matters. My vote for President matters.

IV. Issues in this election that influence how we vote

- A. Illustration table / rocks (Voter education party platform)
 1. Immigration (Hispanic church #1 issue)
 2. Our economy and debt
 3. Healthcare/ Obamacare
 4. What the candidates have said about our race, gender or heritage, e.g. Eva Putin, minorities and Trump, Hillary called people with traditional values deplorable.
 5. Man-made global warming. a/c destroying ozone, EPA regulations.
 6. Taxes
 7. Gun control
 8. Marijuana (AR is voting on legalizing medical marijuana)
 9. School choice/ Common Core
 10. Iran/ Israel

V. 3 issues the judges appointed to the Supreme Court will likely decide

- A. Defending human life (Picture of a baby in the womb) (Sensitive to those who had an abortion)
 1. The Biblical position of life. Psalm 139:13–16 (NLT) You...knit **me** together in my mother's womb...15 You watched me as **I** was being formed...in the dark of the womb. 16...Every day of **my** life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. (Life begins at creation and man has no right to murder an innocent child).
 2. The Biblical call to defend the helpless. Psalm 82:3–4 (NLT) ...uphold the rights of the **oppressed** and the destitute. 4 Rescue the poor (*ESV weak*) and **helpless**; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. Proverbs 24:11 (NCV) **Save those who are being led to their death; rescue those who are about to be killed.**
 3. The political philosophy of Abraham Lincoln on human rights was the Declaration of Independence. The 2nd sentence says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life**, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
 4. Under current law a baby can be aborted until the moment it's born and if she survives the abortion she's often killed. The people vote to stop the madness but Judges overturn the will of the people. Judges matter.
 5. The next big issue about life is, euthanasia. What role will the government play about ending human life? Voter guides and debates tell us where candidates stand.
- B. Marriage and Sexuality
 1. How do we know the difference between right and wrong? 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. **It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.**

- a This statement is true or false. I believe it's true; most judges do not even though they swear on the Bible when assuming office.
- 2. The Biblical basis of sexuality and marriage. Mt 19:4–6 (ESV) He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning **made them male and female**, 5 and said, ‘Therefore a **man** shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his **wife**, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. **What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.**”
 - a Jesus quoted and affirmed Genesis that God creates human beings’ male or female and marriage that God designed and approves is between a man and a woman. FB gives people 58-71 gender choices and current law says we are free to marry the opposite sex or the same sex. Who’s right, Jesus or culture?
 - b Jesus loves all people and so does COTR. Everyone is welcome here but we submit ourselves to the truth of the Bible.
- 3. The Biblical understanding of human sexuality and marriage formed the basis of Western Civilization for thousands of years. In 2004, Arkansans voted 3-1 to amend their Constitution to affirm traditional marriage and make same sex marriage unconstitutional. In 2014, the Sixth Judicial Circuit Judge Chris Piazza overturned the will of the people and the clear teaching of the Bible and ruled the ban on same-sex marriage in the state of Arkansas was unconstitutional.
- 4. In 2015, the Supreme Court required all states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and to recognize same-sex marriages validly performed in other jurisdictions. Both of President Obama’s appointees were in favor of this.
- 5. Whoever is elected President will appoint the Judges that will decide if women’s bathrooms must be open to men who believe they are a woman.
- 6. If judges matter and Presidents appoint them then it matters who I vote for.
- C. Religious freedom
 - 1. Matthew 5:14–16 (NLT) “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden... 16...**let your good deeds shine out for all to see**, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.
 - a Christians are called to bring the light of truth to a dark world. Our faith calls us to tell people about Jesus, the only hope of salvation. Our faith is built on the moral code of the Bible.
 - b Our Founders believed this and recognized the 1st right government was to protect in the Bill of Rights. It says Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or **prohibiting the free exercise thereof**;
 - c Religious freedom is the right to choose a religion, or no religion, and practice one’s beliefs in private and public without interference by the government.
 - 2. Religious freedom of Christians is under assault in America. Coaches are fired for praying. Children are told not to tell stories about Jesus in class, bakers, florists, photographers and t-shirt makers are fined for declining to support same sex marriage. 4 years ago, Professor Angela McCaskill, the first African-American woman to earn a doctorate degree from Gallaudet University, and worked there for

24 years. She was placed on administrative leave after she signed a petition at her church calling for the same-sex marriage measure to be placed on the Nov. ballot.

- a In communist Russia, president Putin recently approved anti-terrorism laws that restrict missionary activity and evangelism. People can't share their faith in homes, online, or anywhere but recognized church buildings. This is freedom of worship, not freedom of religion and America headed there.

- 3. Franklin Graham: Religious freedom is also up for a vote in this election. "There's going to come a time, and it may be sooner than you think, where we may not be able to do what I've done this year: and that's to go to all 50 state capitols on public property to hold a prayer rally and to preach the gospel.

- 4. One of the primary jobs of gov. is to protect religious freedom. Judges matter.

VI. Our privilege and responsibility to vote (challenge to vote asking 3 questions)

- A. In 1870, the 15th amendment to the Constitution granted African American men the right to vote. It took almost 100 years before the right became a reality. How could any African American/ minority not vote given the struggles of past generations?
- B. In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote. How could any woman not vote given the struggles of past generations?
- C. Since our founding, brave patriots have shed their blood to defend our country, including the right to vote and elect our representatives. How could any American not vote given the struggles of past generations?
- D. I know many of us are frustrated with our choices but to not vote is to allow other people to choose the people who will make decisions about your future. 30 million Christians didn't vote in the last election. Don't be one of them.
- E. Samuel Adams, a Founding Father, said "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote...that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."

VII. Conclusion: Prayer for the election outcome

- A. 1 Timothy 2:2 (NCV) **Pray for rulers and for all who have authority** so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives... (America's future doesn't depend on an election alone. God is in control. Next week's message about Joseph I'll tie this in to the election.)
 - 1. I'm praying for God's to be done on election day because I want His purpose to prevail. Whatever happens, I know He holds the future in His hands.
 - 2. As important as voting is, my hope isn't in the President or judges but in Jesus, King of kings/ Lord of Lords.

VIII. Response

- A. Prayer for America
- B. Souls
- C. *** *Logos Bible Software and library were used to prepare this message.*