



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



October 2016

Volume 11, Number 3

It's that time again! Democrats and Republicans will soon have an opportunity to determine the next President of the United States through the voting booth. As members of the Body of Christ, the Church, we should never take lightly the opportunity to vote. (By the way, if you think this article will tell you who to vote for, think again!)

At this critical time for our country, I want to remind those of you who are Christians of your dual citizenship. You may be a citizen of the United States of America; but let me remind you that most importantly, you are a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

What does that mean when it comes to voting? I think Dr. Tony Evans said it best in his book, *How Should Christians Vote*: First, "Every issue and candidate should be considered in light of how they can best keep civil government from intruding on the church and the freedom of religion, while simultaneously recognizing and respecting the church's role of being the divinely ordained conscience of society."* Now that's important, because no matter what direction society takes, as a man or woman in Christ, your most important objective as a citizen is to be a light for Christ in a dark world.

Second, "Every vote that pertains to the sphere of civil government should be chosen based on the ability of the candidate or policy to promote civil government in such a way that it will support the three governments (personal, family, church), rather than infringe upon them."** The greatness of our Constitution emphasizes personal liberties, embraces family, and supports the right to wor-

ship. This means the candidate we vote for ought to embrace the fundamental rights and freedoms of these three governments so that such freedom can prevail.

If our presidential candidate is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, this is a bonus. But most importantly, we need to be mindful that the individual for whom we vote ought to be a competent, qualified leader.

Finally — and this is always important and should never be considered an afterthought -- we ought to pray for wisdom to make the right decision in our vote. Then when our votes have been cast, may we remember whether our new leader is Democrat or Republican, our God is still in control!

Dr. L.W. Edwards

*Evans, Tony, *How Should Christians Vote?*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 2012, p. 82.

**Loc. cit., pp. 82-83.

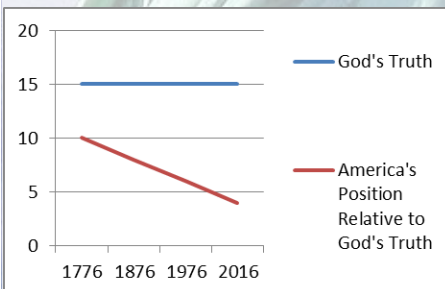


Bibleway Ministries Q&A

Q. America is facing bigger challenges than the issues presented in the first presidential debate. Violence has increased nearly 11% in the past year. Media-driven racial protests are at an all-time high. Political correctness often paints the harshest of realities a rose-colored hue. Large corporations are attacking the state of North Carolina because of its “bathroom bill”; and school districts throughout the country are grappling with the choice to accommodate the government’s gender inclusion guidelines, or face the consequences. In light of these challenges, are either of the presidential candidates equal to the task of setting America aright again?

A. After the first debate, it’s clear the candidates have very different views of what America should look like during the next four years. Each candidate’s (and each voter’s) ideals are shaped by their perception of truth. When the final ballot has been counted, it’s really a set of ideals which will win the election rather than a particular candidate.

That said, when we talk about setting America aright, we have to examine our ideals because each of us has a different perception of the right direction our country should be heading. Some may think America is heading in the right direction; others may think our nation is woefully off-course. We live in a democracy, which means the majority rules. The real question we should be asking — regardless of our political affiliation — concerning the upcoming election, our presidential candidates, and our own voting choices, is how closely our ideals for America align with God’s truth. What does God have to say about the issues you mentioned, as well as abortion, immorality, gender, immigration, the treatment of Israel, and human and religious rights? The closer America aligns with His standards in these areas, the more we will be “on track.”



If we put God’s truth as a blue line on a graph, and put America’s current position relative to God’s truth as a red line on the graph, it might look something like this. (This illustration is obviously flawed:

God’s truth cannot be measured qualitatively or quantitatively, but the graph correctly portrays it as the highest standard. Also, the graph is not intended to show America’s precise position relative to God’s truth through the years, but to show an obvious trend of decline since its inception.)

Much of a nation’s moral climate is influenced by its leaders, and national leaders will be held accountable for their leadership. Based on our defined standard of the “right” course for a nation, neither presidential candidate is qualified or capable of setting America aright. The task is greater than any man or woman, regardless of their experience. But *The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it*

whithersoever he will. (Proverbs 21:1) Ultimately, the fate of our nation is in God’s hands.

While God is holding the reins and steering the ship of our nation, He has expectations for the citizens of America, and for American Christians in particular.

King Solomon prayed for Israel in 2 Chronicles 6, and God responded in chapter 7 with a promise to the nation. The promise applies specifically to Israel, but the spirit of God’s words can be applied to any nation. God said, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

As important as it is to have national leaders whose values align with God’s truth, God made it clear the full weight of responsibility did not fall upon them. He addressed His promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 to the believing citizens of Israel, whom He considers “my people.” He made it clear that change must begin with them. He directly petitioned ... [Keep Reading>>>](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

PO Box 3862, Barrington, IL 60011

847-909-8543/biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net

Sermon Audio Player

Listen to Dr. Edwards online!



Sermon of the Month

Read Dr. Edwards’ Sermon of the Month



Free Downloads

Download our free tracts, and help us reach the world!



Stay in Touch!

Share your questions and comments through email.



Are you sure you will spend eternity in Heaven? [Click here](#) to learn how.