

## HOW CAN I KNOW WHO TO VOTE FOR?

Many people are confused about whom to vote for in various elections. Politicians from both major political parties seem to be engrossed in mud-slinging and are providing very little substance about what they plan to do. Although I understand the dilemma, for the biblical Christian, this should not be a problem.

As we approach an election, I am reminded of a time about three years ago when I was with some folks just hangin' out. Several of us were believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. Others weren't. They were atheists and agnostics. We were discussing various topics, including some that are sources of controversy these days. Suddenly, one of the people, whom I had thought was a solid, conservative Christian, said about the topic currently under discussion, "I don't care what the Bible says about \_\_\_\_\_, I believe \_\_\_\_\_."

Oops! Alarm bells began to sound in my head. God gave us His Word, the *Bible*, out of His great love for us, so we would know how to relate to Him, so we could know Him, have joy and peace and, yes, know whom to vote for.

You don't care what God has said in His Word?! Are you wiser than He?

Jesus cared a lot about what God's Word says. Listen to what He told Satan when tempted by the devil in the wilderness, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*" (Matthew 4:4) This means that people who want to please God must accept and act on what He says. It's called obedience.

Listen to what the Bible says about His Word: "These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word." (Isaiah 66:2) "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

If we are to be the faithful servants God wants to use, we must read the Word, interact with it until we understand it and surrender our wills to God's revealed will as His Word sets it forth – even in our choice of whom to vote for! His Word is literally loaded with guidance for us! *We should support those candidates that best conform to God's commands and to the principles He has given us.*

When God created the nation of Israel after their exodus from Egypt, He gave them what we call the Ten Commandments. Afterwards other laws were added. In addition, God has provided us in the *Bible* with many historical accounts of how He has acted so we can discern how to apply what He has said to our lives. He has provided sufficient guidance so that we may apply what He has said to every situation – even whom to vote for.

Whom should we vote for? Candidates whose lives, voting records and pronouncements reveal that they do indeed understand God's ways and live by them. Vote for them!

CHALLENGE

Compare the available candidates lives, voting records and pronouncements with what you understand the *Bible* teaches. *Vote for the candidates who most closely match what God has said.*

Regardless of who you plan to vote for, be sure to vote every time God gives you the opportunity.