

An Approach to Elections from a Christian Perspective

God-Honoring Criteria for Deciding Who Will Receive Your Vote

America needs leaders who take “In God We Trust” seriously!

America and Christian Beliefs:

America started out as a nation built on a foundation of Christian beliefs, values, and wisdom. Not every citizen and not every founding father was a serious Christian. However, in the early American culture there was a general trust and respect for God and His Bible. Where early America failed to follow God, it suffered the consequences. People and nations reap what they sow. Early America’s faith in God led to the American Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Our rights were viewed as coming from God, not from the government. The founding fathers knew that governments that reject God will act to take away the freedoms of its citizens. Today, America is a nation that is rejecting the God of the Bible. America will reap what it sows. There is only one hope.

Regarding Bible Verse References:

Regarding the Bible verse references shown, we must keep in mind that a Bible verse or passage should be studied in its context considering:

- The verses immediately before and after.
- How the verse relates to the entire chapter
- How the verse relates to the particular book of the Bible to which it belongs and to the rest of the Bible.

The Bible verses referenced in this document speak to important truths that God wants us to understand:

- When God is rejected and His commands disobeyed, evil always results.
- What matters most to God is a person’s heart and a right relationship with Him. This relationship is through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Bible clearly states how God calls us to love, trust, and obey Him.

Keep in mind that although many Bible verses speak to specific situations long ago, it is dangerous to assume that they have no application for us in the 21st century. These Scripture verses reflect God's character, His values, His laws, and His consistent judgment on rebellious nations. Americans would be wise to take heed. Sin never goes unpunished. God responds to true repentance and faith in Jesus Christ with forgiveness, mercy, and grace. This is our only hope.

Criteria 1: Vote for Candidates Who Strive to Live Righteously for God.
Righteousness is doing what is right in God's eyes.

*When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;
But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.
Proverbs 29:2 NKJV*

No one is perfect. However, as Christians we should seek candidates who are devoted to honoring God and who strive to live in obedience to Him. Man's natural tendency is not to follow God's righteousness. Rather, man's nature is to call "right" whatever he or she feels is reasonable at the moment. The problem is that our perceptions and feelings are easily swayed by our own nature and by the culture we live in. The Creator God has already defined righteousness for us in the Bible. His righteousness never changes.

As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; Romans 3:10 NIV

*Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool
than for him. Proverbs 26:12 NKJV*

*"You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever
is right in his own eyes— Deuteronomy 12:8 NKJV*

**Criteria 2: Vote for candidates who revere and trust the Bible
as the Word of God.**

God has given us the Bible to reveal ultimate truth about who He is, who we are, and what this world is all about. If you are lost in a wilderness, you need a compass or GPS—something that is a trustworthy frame of reference to guide you. You don't need a feather on a needle that points in a different direction with every new breeze. Our feelings and the wisdom of our culture are like a feather on a needle. They are not trustworthy frames of reference. The Bible is the timeless and trustworthy frame of reference that God has given us to navigate through this life and to know Him. Contrary to what many of our culture's institutions proclaim there is clear and ample evidence that the Bible is in fact the Word of God and is reliable, accurate, and trustworthy.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting
and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly
equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV*

*As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven;
He is a shield to all who trust in Him. 2 Samuel 22:31 NKJV*

*Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures
or the power of God. Matthew 22:29 NIV*

*Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word,
you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth
shall make you free." John 8:31-32 NKJV*

Criteria 3: Vote for candidates who trust God above man-centered thinking and the ways of this world apart from God.

Man's attempts to manage this world apart from God have always failed. Man's efforts apart from God may seem to work for a time. However, this success is superficial when all things are considered. Impressive architecture, conquered territories, advanced technology, and affluence seem to indicate great human success. However, what matters most in this life is what happens in the hearts, minds, and lives of individual people.

America needs leaders who look first to God and His Word for guidance as they make decisions and set direction for our people, our states, and our nation. We need to vote for leaders who will set directions and put in place guidelines that are God-honoring and consistent with our constitution. Such leaders can then deploy like-minded experts who demonstrate integrity to wisely apply knowledge, technology, and the lessons from history to reach goals and solve problems. The Bible reveals that nations with such leaders are blessed by God.

*Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD
watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. Psalm 127:1 NIV*

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV*

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own
understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct
your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV*

*It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man.
It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes.
Psalm 118:8-9 NKJV*

Criteria 4: Vote for candidates whose lives demonstrate integrity

Character matters. Truth matters. Being trustworthy matters. God values these attributes. They reflect the character of God. He calls us to live as men and women of integrity. In the Bible God never praises attractiveness, financial success, intellect, talent, or popularity above **faith in God, integrity, wisdom, courage, and righteousness**. We should seek these in our own lives. Likewise, these traits are what we should look for first in those we seek to elect as our leaders. Education, leadership skills, experience, and success are all negated if there is a demonstrated lack of integrity in the person running for office.

*But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
1 Samuel 16:7 NIV*

*These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this," declares the LORD.
Zechariah 8:16-17 NIV*

The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. Proverbs 10:9 NIV

Think what might happen in America if every Christian would do the following (in the spirit of 2 Chronicles 7:14):

1. Humble himself or herself before the God of the Bible
2. Pray to God for His mercy, forgiveness, guidance, and help
3. Seek God's face—yielding to God's will and obeying His Word
4. Turn from practicing sin—every sin is sinning against God

... And then vote for candidates who best meet the criteria in this document.

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