

Jesus, Elephants & Donkeys

Preface: My aim this morning is to encourage us to think critically about how our faith intersects with the political process. In exploring these ideas, it's possible some of our perspectives will be challenged. I do not purposefully want to cause offense, criticize, or condemn. So, I ask that we prayerfully approach this conversation with grace and understanding, seeking wisdom together.

We live in a time of deep division and uncertainty. Everywhere we look, there's anxiety about the future of our nation. The political landscape feels like a battlefield, and many are pinning their hopes on this election, believing that the right candidate or the right party will somehow magically solve all our problems. But what if we're missing the point? What if I told you that the true power to change our nation lies not in the ballot box, but within the gospel of Jesus? What if the key to our nation's survival isn't about electing the right people, but about believers being the right people? Today, I want to challenge us to view politics and this election through a spiritual lens. Let's explore how our faith, our actions, and our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus are the true catalysts for the transformation our nation desperately needs.

1. Christians and Politics... It's Complicated:

- a. It's "*We the people*" but God rules in the affairs of America. | Dan 4:17; Job 12:13-25; Luk 22:42b
- b. No single political party has a monopoly on righteous or sinful governance. | Pro 14:34; Amo 5:21-24; Dan 4:27; Jer 22:3
- c. Pacifism is just as legitimate as partisanism. | Rom 14:2-5

2. This Election Won't Change the Fact That...

- a. Jesus is our king, and our ultimate citizenship is in heaven. | Jhn 18:36-37; Php 3:20-21
- b. Jesus is the basis of our unity. | Mat 10:3-4; cf. Col 3:11-17
- c. Our religious freedom is enshrined in Jesus. | Jhn 8:31-38
- d. Jesus' gospel is the way to transform America. | 2 Cor 10:3; 1 Cor 1:17, 23; 2:2

3. What Can We Do as Christians?

- a. Pray for quiet and peaceful lives, so that we might make disciples. | 1 Tim 2:1-4
- b. Proclaim the excellencies of Jesus before our leaders and fellow citizens. | 1 Pet 2:9-12
- c. For the gospel's sake, honor our political leaders. | 1 Pet 2:13-17; Tit 3:1-2

If we're looking for this nation to be saved and to survive into the future, and we think it's all about electing the right people from the right party, then we're wrong. If there's hope for our nation, it's not in the elephant or in the donkey but the lamb of God. The way forward lies in the lives of millions and millions of humble people who choose to take up their crosses daily and follow Jesus. So let your life be the ballot that truly counts. Let your faith be the force that transforms this country. Let the gospel be the platform by which we bring about the restoration of our nation, one heart at a time. Let us not place our hope in earthly powers, but in the Almighty God who holds the destiny of nations in His hands.