

Lecture #14: Voting (Lecture Outline)

"For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisors make victory sure" (Prov 11:14)

1. Introduction: This nation, as any nation, relies upon godly counsel in order to make decisions - when this is removed, everyone suffers (Prov 11:14)
 - a. At least three sources of counsel are in view (leadership; counselors; God's will)
 - b. The "Fall" can be from outside or inside dangers
 - c. Similarly, our country asks for advice (who is to rule; what laws should exist; what evil is to be punished; how is tax money to be spent?)
2. Christians have a very important role in this country
 - a. We are to pray to our sovereign God for those in authority over us (1 Tim 2:1-4)
 - b. We are to encourage our leaders personally, to do what is right and just
 - c. We are to personally encourage our leaders to fulfill their Biblical roles (whether believers or not)
 - d. We are to spiritually minister to our leaders
 - e. We are to pay our taxes out of obedience to the authority over us (Rom 13:6-7)
 - f. We are to give our leaders respect and honor as it is due (Rom 13:7)
 - g. We are to vote: This is another way to directly provide advice to our nation and leadership in:
 - o Punishing the evildoer (Ex 20:1-17)
 - o Commending the good - what constitutes this?
 - o Maintaining peace in the land - what constitutes this? (1 Tim 2:3; Jer 29:7)
 - o Protecting the orphans, the widows, the aliens in the land (Deut 10:17-19; 24:19-22; Lev 19:9-10; 23:22)
 - o Providing godly examples of lives of holiness and character for others to emulate
3. What Should a Christian look for in a Candidate before Voting for him?
 - a. Qualifications relating to their character (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; Prov 28:13)
 - b. Qualifications relating to their spiritual condition
 - c. Qualifications relating to understanding the position (Prov 22:29)
 - d. Must our leaders be men only?
 - o Bible has little that addresses this issue external to the home, church and nation of Israel
 - o In the family (**Eph 5:22-30; 1 Cor 11:3; 1 Tim 2:11; 1 Peter 3:1-5**)
 - o Within the church (**Eph 2:12-15; 1 Cor 14:33-35; 1 Tim 2:12-15**)
 - o Within ancient Israel (**Isa 3:12**) (Deborah; **Judges 4:1-10** judged during an evil time)
 - o Principle in **Eph 2:12-15 and 1 Cor 11:6-10** draws from creation - implies this relationship is true universally and for all time
 - o Exceptions? (no qualified men; greatly gifted woman; temporary only; others?)
 - e. Principle vs Pragmatic
 - o No man meets the qualifications completely (**Eccl 7:20**)
 - o Remember, the heart of the king is in the hands of the Lord (**Prov 21:1**)
 - o Ultimately, God is sovereign in all of mens lives, and elections!
 - o Power of one vote (unknown sources):
 - o 1776 - one vote decided if Americans would speak English or German
 - o 1845 - one vote made Texas a state
 - o 1868 - one vote saved Andrew Johnson from impeachment
 - o 1933 - one vote made Adolph Hitler head of the Nazi Party
 - o 1960 - one vote per neighborhood gave John F. Kennedy victory over Richard Nixon
5. Discussion Questions:
 - o "Is it ever right to vote for a non-Christian? Is it wrong to ever vote for a non-believer over a believer?"
 - o "What should you do if a candidate is far superior (of 3) but has virtually no hope of being elected?"
 - o "Is it ever a sin to vote? Is it ever a sin to not vote?"
 - o "How can a Christian, in clear conscience, vote for the 'better' of two undesirable candidates?"