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TOOLBOX

EVANTELL'S

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THE ONE THING AN **ELECTION** YEAR NEVER CHANGES

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There are many things that change in an election year. Some financial, others social, some personal. It can impact stock market for bad or for good. People can become the best of friends or unfortunately the worst of enemies. Parades and protests are commonplace. People can become elated or depressed, feeling relieved or disappointed.

There is one thing though that an election year does not change – that is the sovereignty of God. Regardless of who or which party thinks they hold absolute authority, God is still in complete control. He has not and will not relinquish His place on the throne.

We have a responsibility before God and before our fellow men, to examine the people, parties, and platforms. But there is one truth we cannot escape because it is so plainly taught in Scripture. Ultimately the one who walks into the White House or any particular governmental positions, will do so because God put them there.

Romans 13:1 tells us, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." There is even a warning attached that reinforces what God has just said, "Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment to themselves." God is sovereign before the election, God will be sovereign during the election, and God will still be sovereign after the

election. There is nothing that can happen in the coming months and even years that is outside of His permissive will. He is not second in command. He is Commander in Chief.

What a comfort to those who know the Lord. When things seem out of control, we know the One who is in complete control. While others are panicking, we can pray – for our leaders and for ourselves. While others are wondering what the world is coming to, we can relish in our relationship of knowing the One who is coming to the world. While some will walk in despair, we walk in excitement. God is in control. An election year does not change his sovereignty, it simply verifies it.

How will that sovereignty be seen the most? As we watch God continue to go about His program not about ours. Whatever happens on election day, God is going to continue to draw people to Himself and populate His kingdom. His program doesn't change. As He prepared for His crucifixion in which he would prove His victory over sin, death, and the devil, He assured His disciples, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself." Whatever happens, whatever precedes or follows election day, God will be bringing people to Jesus.

God is very much in touch, very alert and aware, very much involved, in complete control. We know and serve a sovereign God.



What makes the gospel so important during election year 2020?

The question every believer ought to ask as election 2020 season approaches is not, "Who is going to be elected?" To start there is to miss out on our purpose as disciples of Christ.

Instead it is, "What is the most important need people on all sides of the political spectrum have?" The answer is a four-letter word — HOPE

But what people fail to see is that the ultimate hope will not come from who enters the White House. In fact, Matthew 24:6-7 paints a dismal picture of the future. "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars...For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places."

Our hope is not in the one who walks into the White House, but the One who is coming from the Big House — Jesus Christ Himself. As Christians we are part of those who are "looking for the blessed

hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13)

Our hope is not in politics — but in a Person who as the next verse in Titus explains, "...gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people..."

That is where we as His disciples come in. Only when people hear the gospel — Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead — and trust Him to save them will they find the hope for which they are searching. They can look forward with excitement to that day when He will fulfill His promise "I will come again and receive you to self; that where I am there you may be also." (John 14:3)

People have a need — hope. God has the answer — Jesus. We have the message — the gospel.



Is it wrong to influence people toward a viewpoint that we believe aligns with biblical principles? Absolutely not! But what if our efforts to influence them are greater than our efforts to share the gospel with them? What if a watching world begins to equate our political views as the sum of Christianity? In many cases that seems to be happening, and I think we run the risk of winning people to a point of view instead of to a personal Savior.

Here are three things to keep in mind and four questions to consider in the midst of this tumultuous political season.

1

Be known for your devotion to Jesus. Anytime a believer, church, or denomination is known more for anything other than Jesus Christ, there is a major problem. It is concerning when Christian leaders refer more to "Judeo Christian values" than to the name of Jesus Christ.

2

Keep the true mission front and center. Routinely ask yourself: "Is my devotion to political news/discussions keeping me from following Christ well in other areas of my life?" Christians have every right to be involved in the political process, but if we are not careful, over-involvement can distract us from our true mission, to know Christ and to make Him known.

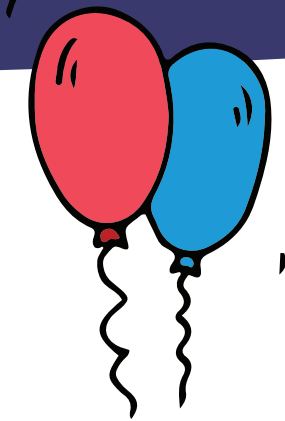
3

Be discerning with political information. Most of us will come across modern-day chain letters with closing lines like, "If you really love America (and/or the Lord), you WILL share this." Unfortunately, many turn out to contain misinformation, half-truths, or innuendos about a political figure or group. We must be on our guard to discern the good from the bad.

QUESTIONS FOR SELF-REFLECTION

- Are you more willing to share your political opinions than the gospel?
- Do you complain about your governmental leaders more than you pray for them?
- When you receive a political message, do you check the facts before forwarding/sharing it?
- Have you limited your realm of influence for the gospel by only associating with people who hold your political views?

★ 2020 ★ ELECTION: DO THIS, NOT THAT!



Elections can distract us from the Great Commission. Here are some alternative actions that can help us to stay on task to share the gospel and open doors of opportunity.

Instead of...



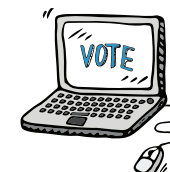
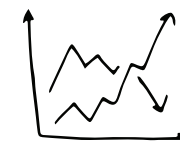
Worrying about the outcome of the election

Complaining about officials and candidates



Saturating your mind with the news

Focusing on the problems in our country



Sharing your political opinions

Do this...

Trust in the Lord no matter who is in charge

Pray for them

Saturate your mind with God's word

Focus on how you can serve others and be a part of the solution

Share the hope that is within you

Verse

In God I have put my trust:
I will not fear.
What can flesh do to me? **Psalm 56:4**

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority. **1 Timothy 2:1-2**

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. **Romans 12:2**

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. **Mark 10:45**

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." **Mark 16:15**