

NOW THAT THE ELECTION IS OVER (1 Peter 2:13-17)

1. Remember that God is in control.

- a. It doesn't really matter to us as Christians who won the election.
 - i. I realize it is important as an American who won or lost.
 - ii. I fully believe we need to participate in the electoral process as I stated last week.
- b. God is in control and always has been.
 - i. If Clinton had been elected, God would still be in control.
 - ii. Even though Trump has been elected, God is still in control.
- c. There was a king who found this out the hard way (Daniel 4:17, 25, 32).
- d. God has always set up nations and torn down nations.
 - i. When you read Exodus 3-12, you see He did this with Egypt.
 - ii. God used the Canaanite nations to punish the Israelites, about which we read in the book of Judges.
 - iii. You can see through the historical books of the Old Testament that God used Assyria, Babylon, and the Medo-Persian empires as His tools as well.
- e. God is still at work today (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17).
- f. We must not put our faith in Trump or any other person who sits in the White House, but only in Him who sits on the Great White Throne.

2. Request of God His blessings.

- a. I hope we have been praying for our leaders.
 - i. This has been something I have struggled with through the years.
 - ii. As I've aged and matured, I've come to realize how important this is.
- b. We are commanded to do it (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
 - i. Why pray for our leaders?
 - ii. Number one is so that we can lead quiet and peaceable lives.
 - (1) This is not a request for just an easy life.
 - (2) This is a request for the opportunity to be able to spread the gospel message.
 - iii. Number two is to bring about the opportunity for our leaders to learn and obey the gospel.
- c. Our desire to save souls should be the foremost thought in our prayers for our leaders.
 - i. The souls of our neighbors with whom we can share the gospel.
 - ii. The souls of our leaders who make decisions that have both moral and spiritual repercussions.
- d. About praying for our leaders, C.S. Lewis wrote, "If they are wrong they need your prayers all the more; and if they are your enemies, then you are under orders to pray for them".
 - i. Jesus said to pray for our enemies (Matthew 5:44).
 - ii. Our leaders can be our enemies if they are enacting laws that bring persecution on us.

3. Reveal God's plan for man.

- a. You and I have been tasked with carrying out the Great Commission.

- b. Our Lord commands us to go out into the world with the Gospel.
 - i. Matthew 28:18-20.
 - ii. Mark 16:15.
- c. Remember, part of the reason we are to pray is so that the laws that are in place will be those that allow us to be spreading the borders of the kingdom.
- d. As mentioned earlier, this election has caused division.
 - i. Some of this division has been among brethren.
 - ii. Some have divided over the one for whom they should vote.
 - iii. Some have divided over the right to vote at all.
- e. I've seen some argue that we need persecution in order for the church to grow and that we should be praying for persecution.
 - i. I'm well aware that the church grew in the 1st-3rd centuries while going through persecution.
 - ii. However, that does not mean the church cannot grow without persecution.
 - iii. The Lord's church was the fastest growing religious body in the 50's-60's when there was no persecution.
- f. The fact of the matter is, whether or not there is persecution, we need to be revealing God's saving message to man because it is man's only hope.

4. Resolve to be God's example to man.

- a. In this divisive time, we have to show unity.
 - i. We need to be united as brethren.
 - ii. This is something for which Jesus prayed (John 17:20-21).
- b. We need to be those who seek to help no matter the race or creed of the person in need.
 - i. (Talk about the missionary to UAE).
 - ii. Those Muslims were converted because of the example of the Christians there.
- c. We are the lights of the world and we need to be such (Matthew 5:14).
- d. Author Eugene Cho said it this way: "If we reduce civic engagement to a singular vote every four years, we are part of the problem. Yes, get out and vote. But don't just cast a vote. Embody your faith. Serve your neighbors. Advocate for the last and the least. Share the Gospel. Work for the common good. Pursue justice. Seek the peace of your city."
- e. Show people what it truly means to be a Christian.