



Reflections on the Election Season

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By this time next week the election will be over and, barring some unforeseen glitch or controversy (I still remember 2000 and the days that followed), we will have chosen our next president. I think we're all ready for this season to be over.

I don't know what next week will bring, but I don't expect things to necessarily get better post-election. This has been a bitter election season. I've watched too many of my friends on social media conclude that to vote for (fill-in-the-blank) means you're an idiot or that you're a part of what's wrong with our country right now.



There have been a lot of proclamations that if (fill-in-the-blank) gets elected, it will be the end of America as we know it. There have been more than a few claims that President (fill-in-the-blank) will bring disaster to Christianity in the United States. We live in a country that feels more divided than unified, suspicion is running high, trust is running low and there seems to be a lot of people who are afraid right now.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let's remember who we are right now. Let's remember to whom we belong. Let's embrace this moment where so many seem to be guided by fear and reaffirm our faith in Jesus the king! Let's remember that Jesus said that He would build His church and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Let's remember that Jesus promised to never leave us or forsake us. Let's remember that we have countless brothers and sisters in Christ, both present and in ages past, who have endured far greater troubles than what our current experience may bring and that they bear witness to the fact that Jesus did not fail them in their times of trouble.

I have good, Jesus-following friends who are voting for Trump. I have good, Jesus-following friends who are voting for Clinton. I have good, Jesus-following friends who are voting for a third-party candidate. I have good, Jesus-following friends who are choosing to abstain from voting this election. Do I agree with all of them? No. Do I believe they've abandoned their faith because they've determined to vote for a different candidate? No. Do I believe they're part of what's wrong with this country? No. I



find my identity in Christ first and foremost, which means that they are first and foremost my brothers or sisters in Christ. My political affiliation or my sense of patriotism or nationalism must find its proper place behind my ultimate allegiance to Christ the king.

We find ourselves in yet another poignant moment where we, as God's people, have the opportunity to shine bright to a world that's frustrated and full of fear. Let's not miss this opportunity. Let's set our eyes on Jesus in these days ahead and ask the Holy Spirit to empower us to demonstrate and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the only true hope for our world. Let's stay on mission!

Earlier this week, Brad Brisco (<http://www.forgeamerica.com/brad-brisco/>) shared the following quote from Russell Moore's Erasmus Lecture in New York. I've had a growing admiration and appreciation for Dr. Moore and his work as the president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. I was challenged by his insights and I would encourage you to think deeply about his observations as we strive to live as faithful witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The evangelicals who are at the center of evangelical vitality are also the least likely to be concerned with politics. Again, this is not because they are liberal but because they keep a priority on the gospel and the mission that they do not wish to lose. The leaders they read and listen to are also often fairly indifferent to politics. ... Those who do care about politics, and who lead populist movements, tend to be theologically vacuous, tied to populist "God and Country" appeals that seem simultaneously idolatry and angry to younger Christians, and often form a kind of "protection racket" seeking to silence Christian voices as "liberal" who wish to speak about such matters as racial justice."



You can watch the entire speech here: <https://www.firstthings.com/.../can-the-religious-right-be-sa...>
Let's think well and live well my dear brothers and sisters.

Christ's Peace,

Lance

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