



Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

Nov.—Dec. 2024★ Vol. 34, Number 06

Calendar

Tuesday, Nov. 5
General Election

Jan. 8
Legislature Begins

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2025 Legislative session

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact us at camnetVT@gmail.com.

To Vote or Not to Vote

By
William Parkinson

For most of us, who to vote for is the big question, but for some, whether to vote at all is the question.

Politics can be a dirty business so some want no part of it. For many voting for the lesser of two evils is still participating in evil. For many especially here in Vermont where many of us have toiled for years it can feel useless. We have worked for years to achieve a more Christ-like moral society here and it just seems to keep getting worse – so why keep trying? One source on the internet shows statistics that 25 million Christians did not vote in the last presidential election and 15 million more are not even registered to vote. Knowing how close many elections are these days that is an important number, it shows what a difference activated Christians could be making.

So why should we be involved and who says so?

Franklin Graham a few years ago stated “You may be saying that you

don’t see a whole lot of hope on the horizon – what can I do? I tell you what you can do, you can vote...” “America needs the Christian voice.” His father Billy Graham, way back in 1952 said, “I think it is the duty of every individual Christian at election time to study the issues, study the candidates, then go to the polls and vote.”



Pope Francis this year talking about our current presidential election stated “In political morality, in general, they say if you don’t vote, it is not good, it’s bad. You have to vote and you have to choose the lesser evil”. Acknowledging it would be extremely rare to ever find a candidate who agrees with every single thing you believe, or one that you think is a perfect person. We know there’s

only been one of those and he’s not running, but we should all be looking for his attributes in the candidates we consider, even knowing none of them will be perfect.

We are called to be salt and light, one way we can do that in the United States is by voting. Proverbs 29:2 says, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.” In our country we choose by voting who is in authority, it is our responsibility to try and make it the righteous who are in authority. Ps. 34:14 says, “Seek peace, and pursue it.” One way for us to pursue peace is to vote in the right leaders. First Timothy 2:2 tells us to pray for and give thanks for those in authority over us. Voting shows we care about who our leaders are, and we should be thankful for living in a system where we have that option.

Luke 12:48 summed up: “to whom much is given much is expected;” we are given that power to help decide our leaders. We are expected to use it

properly.

When Jesus said, “Render unto Caesar the things that be Caesar’s,” we usually think of taxes because of how the question was worded, but some extend it to include civic duty which would include voting for our country. In Deuteronomy 17, the Lord commanded: “When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you ... be sure to appoint over you a king the Lord your God chooses.” So we need to appoint/elect a person we believe the Lord would most likely choose from the candidates available. Deuteronomy 1:13 says, “Choose some wise, understanding, and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you.”

Not voting can actually be a form of voting as it makes a difference in the outcome and the statistics on how much either side is favored in their viewpoints. As so often stated, “All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.” The bigger the margin of vic-

tory is on either side will affect people’s perception and the way candidates approach the next election, or sometimes even who will be willing to run for office next time.

Do we not dishonor those who fought and died to give us the right to vote and those who fought and died to preserve it for us, when we don’t exercise that right

Daniel Webster said: “Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don’t vote.”

It is depressing but sometimes when we vote it is not so much for candidate “X” but more against candidate “Y.” As one church’s position states “it is permissible to cast a vote against the candidate who would do the most harm.” Especially in today’s culture, there are issues so important and the differences in the candidates so clear that we might need to vote for one candidate because the other intends to push us into ungodly territory. To say I can’t vote for “X” because of the evil they

represent and promote, but I don’t really like “Y” either so I won’t vote might actually collectively help “X” win. For the sake of the next generation, we owe it to them to do all we can to ensure Godly leadership and laws.

We can’t wait for the perfect man (woman) to vote for. There has only ever been one perfect man and he’s not on the ballot. For a moment let’s equate voting and choosing. Remember even God chose (voted for) many imperfect men; think of Noah, Jonah, Abraham, Joseph, David, and Moses, all imperfect but God chose (voted for) them. Then the one perfect man came and he chose twelve imperfect men to be his apostles. We have the perfect man to follow and be our example but until His earthly return, we need to choose (vote for) leaders who will as best they can, follow his example.

Pastor Greg Laurie of Harvest Ministries on his blog states “Some might say, ‘Well, we as Chris-

tians are not of this world, so maybe I’ll just vote for Jesus!’ Please. Jesus does not need your vote; He has already earned a position far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else – not only in this world but also in the world to come”. ... “I don’t know that I would say it is a sin not to vote, but I believe it is a huge mistake that is perhaps bordering on a sin at the worst, and at the least is completely irresponsible and bad stewardship. Scripture tells us, ‘To Him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.’” (James 4:17 NKJV)

To just vote is not enough, we must do it intelligently. We need to study the issues and the candidates’ history, and we need to pray for wisdom in ourselves and in all the others voting.

Choose and choose wisely.

William Parkinson is a founding director of Christian Action Ministry whose family attends Trinity Baptist Church in Williston.

Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.

- Reinhold Niebuhr, theologian and author

Our Attitude Towards the Church

*Scripture selections & observations by
Anne Parkinson*

In what way should we understand that every local church is a visible, earthly manifestation of the heavenly assembly, Mount Zion?

For you have not come to a mountain that may be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word should be spoken to them. For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED." And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR AND TREMBLING."

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." And this expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:18-29 NASB)

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS UPON HIS HEAD." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:4-21 NASB)

Everything was carried on the heads back then. Burning coals to start a fire being one. This is a blessing, not a curse.

Anne Parkinson is Secretary of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Trinity Baptist Church in Williston.

To Vote or Not to Vote, That is the Question

“I think it is the duty of every individual Christian at election time to study the issues, study the candidates, then go to the polls and vote.” - Evangelist Billy Graham, 1952

“In political morality, in general, they say if you don’t vote, it is not good, it’s bad. You have to vote and you have to choose the lesser evil.” - Pope Francis, 2024

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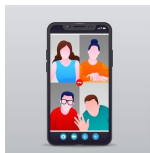
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istry Network.

here to
now.

What Can I Do?



***Faith without
works is dead***
James 2:17

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or use our website
<https://christianactionministry.org/>



CAM Network, Inc.
PO Box 1067
Williston, VT 05495

Next Meeting

Nov. 12, 7:00 pm
Zoom

Dec. 10, 7:00 P.M.
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

camnetvt@gmail.com
*Email to confirm date and
location*

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**