

After The Election

In a few days, Americans will either have voted by mail, or in person, and the election will be over. We may or may not know the winner on Tuesday night but eventually somebody will be declared the winner. Perhaps due to the whole crazy 2020-year thing or politics being hyper-partisan, many have said some alarming things concerning the aftermath of this election. I am sure it will declare this the greatest victory ever, while others will say it is the demise of our republic. Some will think all of our social, economic, and health issues will be resolved, while others will speak of social upheaval, economic collapse, and a greater health crisis.

I will admit to becoming a television junkie during the election cycle although I have tried to remain calm. Despite who wins or loses there will still be problems in our country. We live in a divided country but that is not new. Rome was a divided Empire and eventually dissolved due to internal problems and alliances.

How should we as Christians react the day after the election? Jesus spoke of His disciples as being the salt and light of the world. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16). We have read this passage before but what is the commonality between salt and light? They influence what is around them. Salt can purify, or preserve, or melt, or enhance taste, but it must come into contact with what is not salt. Salt touching salt does absolutely nothing, only when it touches ice, or food, or water, does it have any affect. Likewise, light shines through darkness. A little light can be seen a long way. Have you ever flown at night and looked out the window of a plane at 30,000 feet? You will see little dots of light from the ground. A star millions of miles away can be seen when it is dark. A light hidden does no good, only when it shines in the darkness does it provide comfort, hope, and guidance.

Here is what we as Christians need to remember.

God is still in control. "But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him." (Habakkuk 2:20). I will admit this is usually said when your candidate/party loses the election. As Christians we get some comfort from this passage. Truthfully, God is in His holy temple no matter who wins or loses. Nations, Empires, and leaders come and go; God is still God no matter who wins. It is Him we serve, we focus on, we strive to please. Don't get caught up in the drama of the moment.

Stay calm which means don't gloat if your side wins and don't jump off a building if your side loses. A lot of people on November 4th or the following days will have a meltdown. If you want to be the salt and light of the world, be calm and reassuring. Remember Daniel was a lion's den all night but God shut the mouths of the lions, Daniel 6. The tendency is to worry about things we can't control but staying calm will show others that you have a great source of comfort and strength.

Watch what you say and how you say it! This goes at all times as we are told to watch our speech. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." (Colossians 4:6). There are key words in this passage but the word "always" is very important. A week or two ago, I posted on line and had a number of responses. I did not agree with all of them but even some who agreed with me, I found to be overly harsh. Listen or read and think before you speak or type and use your words carefully.

Treat those who disagree with you with respect and love. I may not agree with you on anything but I am still obligated as a Christian to love my enemies. "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." (Matthew 5:44). That means to not threaten or be hurtful but seek to help others.

Finally, remember we have to fellowship those are in the body of Christ. "So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and

between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren.” (Genesis 13:8). These words were spoke as the herdsmen of Abram and Lot were quarreling. In this case they separated and went in different directions. As Christians our fellowship is not based on politics but Christ. We are saved by His blood as we obey the Gospel. Our working together is dictated by His word as He is the head of the body. Next Sunday Christians will come together to sing, pray, observe the Lord’s Supper, give as they have prospered, and hear the word of God proclaim. No matter who wins this or any other election, that will not change.

Our citizenship is in the heavenly kingdom. – Dennis Tucker