

## Your Election

This past week we had a political election in Kentucky. It received much attention and got me to thinking about some of the characteristics of an "election." In other words. The things that makes an election and "election."

Some people may not vote in a political election due to apathy, ignorance or some other reason. By not voting they give their fate over to others who may or may not act in their best interest.

Choices are to be made in an election. If only one person is running for an office there is no election. The reason is simple enough, when there is only one choice, there is no real choice. But when two or more choices are available, we think of people running for an office, but it may be a choice of passing a new law. We as the electorate are given the freedom to make our own personal choice.

There are results or consequences of elections. The winning side has the right to do to enact their agenda. There is a reason the winning side celebrates and the losers mourn. If this was not true then the election is a shame, a façade or an illusion.

A political party group works to convince you to vote for their cause or person. Such may be political parties or concerned group of people. They may try to use facts which favor their cause/side. Sometimes those "facts" may be distortions or out right lies. It is up to each one of us to determine their truthfulness. Others may use emotion to motivate us. In which case we must make sure our emotions are aligned with reality.

Finally, there must be the casting and counting of votes. They don't take the votes and throw them away (that would be fraud) but there is supposed to be an accurate totaling of the votes.

This got me to thinking about a Bible passage dealing with our election. "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble". (2 Peter 1:10)

The above passage stresses the need for diligence. This means we are to exert effort, to be cautious, and be persistent. Some folks believe we are passive in our salvation as they believe God has already selected the saved. Apparently, the inspired writer did not believe so as we are told to be diligent. Unfortunately, others are apathetic and don't exert any effort in studying their Bible. Some are ignorant of God's will. In this election we have the deciding vote. God wants us to be saved, Satan wants us to be lost, and each one of us gets to cast the deciding vote.

There is choice to be made in our salvation. We choose to believe and obey or disbelieve and be disobedient. We are made in God's image with the ability to make our own decisions. Joshua challenged the children of Israel in Joshua 24.15 to choose to serve God but he also stated his choice.

Elections have consequences and results. If we vote for Satan we will be lost while our vote for God results in salvation. By vote I mean, render obedience to, believe in, and serve. While we don't formally enter a ballot booth and pull a lever or fill in a blank, we vote with our minds, body, and soul. We will either serve God or Satan. "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though

you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered." (Romans 6:16-17)

Satan will try to influence us to disobey God. He lied to Eve about the forbidden fruit in Genesis 3. He is called the father of lies. "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." (John 8:44) He will also appeal to our passions, lust, and pride, 1 John 2.15-17. On the other hand, truthfulness is one of the characteristics of God, Isaiah 65.16. The truth matters in any and all elections. "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32) We will either vote for the truth or a lie.

Finally, there is the actual casting and counting of votes. This is where my comparison breaks down a little for our casting of our vote is in our obedience to the Gospel and being faithful till death, Revelation 2.10. God knows how we have voted. On the Day of Judgement our vote, i.e. manner of life will be brought to judgement. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10) The faithful will have a home in heaven and the disobedient will be punished. "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." (John 5:28-29)

With such high stakes we need to be diligent concerning our eternal election.— Dennis Tucker