

God Is Still In Control

By Paul Jetter, Pastor, Upper Valley Community Church, Piqua, Ohio
www.uvcc.info



Wouldn't it be nice if God would just step in and decide the ongoing battle for congress? While the Democrats and the Republicans argue over who can better lead the country, many from both parties claim that they best represent what God would want for our country.

The good news is that according to his Word, God will decide the final outcome. Daniel 2:21 declares that God *"sets up kings and deposes them"*. The Apostle Paul instructs us to submit to the governing authorities because *"there is no authority except that which God has established"* (Romans 13:1).

In other words, in spite of all the rhetoric and lawsuits, God is still in control.

At first glance, one would suppose that God, being righteous, would only allow righteous leaders to become elected. However, God is not nearly as interested in who leads the nations as he is in the character of the nations. In his righteousness and justice, he usually gives people the leaders that reflect their morality and values. If our nation accepts immorality, dishonesty, materialism and selfish living as its values, our leaders will begin to reflect those same values.

According to Jesus, Christians are to be the salt of the earth. The purpose of salt is to flavor the rest of the food. In the same way, the Church is to bring a positive moral and spiritual flavoring to all of society.

Jesus warns us that if we lose our moral and spiritual values we will become like salt that has no flavor. In biblical times, such salt was thrown out and used for a type of road gravel.

Christians who lose their moral distinction from the rest of the world forfeit their ability to influence the rest of society. They also lose the power of their prayers, including their prayers for godly leaders. As such, their only influence on democracy is often just one vote.

But Christians who retain their moral distinctions from the rest of society and who maintain a prayerful relationship with God can influence their nation far beyond the power of their single vote. God Almighty works on their behalf to bring righteous leaders to the nation.

The longevity of our freedoms and democracy has much more to do with how we handle God's laws on the sanctity of life, the rights of the underprivileged and the upholding of biblical marriage than it does on the outcome of this election.

It is a sad commentary on our times that the most important issue of our elections is usually the economy. With God, morality, compassion and justice matter more than materialistic issues.

Regardless of who eventually controls Congress, Christians should remember that God is in control; righteousness will eventually triumph over evil. Our task for now is to be the salt of the world – influencing the rest of society by our lives, love and teachings.