

A Non-Political Solution

An Election-Year Reminder

Matthew 22:15-22

Have you noticed it is an election year? Yes, I do know the answer to that question—you cannot help but know it! In a democracy, especially our American democracy, we may lose sight of the real solution to our problems. Politics, though capable of making fundamental changes in our lives, cannot provide us with the satisfaction of our deepest needs.

A Roman gentleman from the first century by the name of Epictetus wisely observed, "... while the emperor may give peace from war on land and sea, he is unable to give peace from passion, grief, and envy. He cannot give peace of heart for which man yearns more than even for outward peace." His words are as true today under our government as they were then for the Roman regime.

Scriptures for the Mix

- Private and public concerns (Rom. 12:19-13:7)
- Paul's use of his Roman citizenship (Acts 22:25-29; 23:11-24)
- God's sovereignty over nations and kingdoms (Dan. 5:21b; 7:13-14)
- God opening doors (Acts 14:27; I Cor. 16:9; II Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3; Rev. 3:8)
- A case of priority (Matt. 6:33; 22:15-22)
- A matter of citizenship (Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:10, 13-16, 37-38)

The Passion of Priorities

- The things we treasure most are the things that reveal our hearts by the decisions we make (Matt. 6:22-24)
- A matter of zeal (Jn. 2:17; cf. Phil. 3:6)
- The solution of the crucified Christ (Gal. 6:14; cf. Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 4:4; I Cor. 1:22-24; 2:2; Gal. 2:20; 5:21)
- Salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16)
- Jesus saves (Act 4:11-13)

As we consider the importance of our political decisions, let us remember there is another set of decisions that far outweigh them. In fact, there is one decision that cannot be more significant, "I have decided to follow Jesus!" In the marketplace of ideas, let us be sure to give Jesus His due.

Edwin S. Jones
April 20, 2008 (AM)