

Faith Fight Podcast - Voting for Government Leaders

If you are listening to this at the time it is released, the country of Canada is about to vote for their Prime Minister in one week. This is an important election for all Canadians and even more important to Christians in Canada. As a believer, you need to know what the bible says about voting and what your responsibility are. This episode will go over what the bible says to help you make a good decision when you go to make your voice be heard in the ballot box.

Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you.' - Deuteronomy 1:13

Moses identified some of the inner qualities of good leaders. Wisdom, Understanding, and respect. These characteristics differ from what we find in some of our leaders today. Some leaders that are in office or hope to get into office think that they can get in because of good looks, wealth, popularity, or willingness to do anything to advance. We should look for the qualities that Moses mentioned when we elect people to positions of leadership.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. - 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

Although God is all powerful and all knowing, he has chosen to let us help him change the world through our prayers. How this works is a mystery to us because of our limited understanding but it is a reality. Paul urges us to pray for each other and for our leaders in government.

When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan. - Proverbs 29:2 ESV

When someone righteous is in a position of leadership over a country, they will make their decisions that are in line with the word of God. When the government of a country makes decisions that are in line with God's word, God's blessing will be over that land. As a result, the people will prosper.

Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. - Exodus 18:21 ESV

The reason I include this verse in this episode is because of the first criteria for leading people. Men who fear God. When someone fears and reverences the Lord you know that they will make decisions after seeking God and living their life in line with the Word of God. Before an election, we need to see which candidate has the most reverence toward God.

*He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; - **Daniel 2:21** ESV*

When we see evil leaders who live long and good leaders who die young, we may wonder if God controls world events. Daniel saw evil rulers with almost limitless power, but he knew and proclaimed that God removed kings and establishes kings. That God controlled everything that happens. God governs the world according to his purposes. You may be dismayed when you see evil people prosper but God is in control. Let this knowledge give you confidence and peace no matter what happens.

*“Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— he remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.” - **Psalms 146:3-10** NIV*

The psalmist portrays man as an inadequate saviour, a false hope, even princes cannot deliver. God is the hope and help for all people. We are not to look to elected officials to save us though they may have much influence and power. Only God can help us and turn situations around. Keep your hope on God and not man.

*“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” - **Romans 13:1** NIV*

As Christians we have a responsibility to make our countries better. We can do this by electing Christian or other high principled leaders into office. We can also do this morally by serving as an influencer for good in society. In this view church and state ideally work together for the good of all.

*For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. - **Psalms 22:28***

*The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. **Psalms 24:1***

When you really step back and look at the people we vote into government, they are all stewards. God owns everything and He would want us to rule and have dominion over the earth and be his reflection on earth.

“They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval. With their silver and gold they make idols for themselves to their own destruction.” - Hosea 8:4

The people of Israel would call to God but it would be too late because they wouldn't take the time to seek God before. Let us take this as a warning for us to make sure we include God in our decision of who

to vote for. We don't want to be in a situation where we need to repent after to try to avoid the painful consequences of our decisions/sin.

*“But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, ‘No, we want a king to rule over us’—even though the Lord your God was your king. Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for; see, the Lord has set a king over you. If you fear the Lord and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God—good! But if you do not obey the Lord, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors.” - **1 Samuel 12:12-15 NIV***

God granted the request for a king, but his commands and requirements are the same for the king and people. No person is ever exempt from God's laws and no human is outside of his jurisdiction. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Weekly Prayer Plan – Voting for Government Leaders

How to Use this Template:

Download and save this document to begin using at the beginning (Monday) of every week. Every Week will have different bible verses to meditate on based on the Faith Fight Podcast episode topic for that week. Determine the time and place that you will devote to prayer. The below structure is set for one hour and is only used as a guide. You can adjust your timing if necessary.

Time: _____

Place: _____

5 min – Drawing Near To God

5 min – Confession

10 min – God-Centered Petitions

10 min – Intercessory Prayer

10 min – Personal Petitions

15 min – Meditation

5 min – Praise, Thanksgiving & Closing

1. **DRAWING NEAR TO GOD** - Matt. 6:9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”

God the Father is the focus of all our prayers. We should never forget what a privilege it is to bend our knees on earth and reach almighty God in heaven.

2. **CONFESSION** - Matt. 6:12 “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”

When we repent and forgive others, we maintain fellowship with God. But if we hold grudges, that fellowship is broken. God loves to answer our prayers when the lines of communication are not disrupted.

3. **GOD CENTERED PETITIONS** Matt 6:10 “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”

Prayer should reflect a desire to align ourselves with God’s goals and purposes, not to get Him to follow our plans.

4. **PERSONAL PETITIONS** Matt 6:11 “Give us today our daily bread.”

We are dependent upon the Lord for our needs and He wants us to come to Him with our requests.

5. **MEDITATION** Joshua 1:8 “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Meditation is thinking about the word of God to understand what it means in the context of the scripture and how it can apply to your life today. The Word of God is powerful enough to still be relevant in your life today even though it was written thousands of years ago.

Read through the scripture passages for today as listed below:

Meditational Verses

Monday: Daniel 2:17-30

Tuesday: Hosea 8:1-14

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 1:9-18

Thursday: Psalm 24

Friday: Romans 13:1-7

Saturday: 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Sunday: Proverbs 29

Once you have read the scripture for today, write down your answer to the questions below or any other insight/revelation that you receive in your prayer journal.

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a lesson to learn?
3. Is there a blessing to enjoy?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a sin to avoid?
6. Is there a new thought to carry with me?

- 6. PRAISE & THANKSGIVING 1 John 5:14-15** “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

We can end our prayer time with confidence that God has heard our prayer and will answer in His perfect timing. Demonstrate your faith in Him by showing thanks before you see the answer to your prayers.