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## **WHAT DOES GOD SAY?**

Greeting in Jesus!

Here in the United States a president is elected every four years. This year, 2016, is one of those election years. A person can only be elected as president for two, four-year terms. Barack Obama has been our president since his election in 2008. Since he cannot run for re-election, it means voters will be electing a new president.

When voters go to the polls on November eighth they will see several names listed as candidates for president. However, there are only two primary candidates who have the greatest chance of winning the election: Hillary Clinton, representing the Democrat Party, and Donald Trump, representing the Republican Party. Hillary Clinton's running mate, Tim Kaine, is also an adherent to the general platform of the Democrat Party. Donald Trump's running mate, Mike Pence (present Governor of Indiana), is a Republican and extremely open about professing Jesus Christ as his Savior.

This election is unlike anything I have ever seen in my life. It is not unusual for various media sources to criticize candidates, but this race has seemed to elicit criticism above what has been seen in the past. Both the Democrat and Republican Party candidate races are typically filled with theatrics and grandstanding; but this year has seen bantering, bickering, name-calling and mudslinging rise to an all-time high. Beyond that, I have never witnessed so much anger, vitriol, criticism and harsh cruelty directed toward candidates coming from people who profess Jesus Christ as their Savior. I'm not surprised when the lost act as such; but Christians know better, yet many seem to leave their testimony in the closet when it comes to what they say and what they post on Facebook. It is shocking.

Everyone has an opinion as to what should and should not be done regarding politics and social agendas. For example, many have jumped on the bandwagon of the Black Lives Matter movement. It has played a role in the campaigns of almost all politicians. I have even read some of the supporting comments made by Christians. However, I have yet to read about the absolute hypocrisy of the movement called to account. You see, the number of black people killed by police officers is miniscule in comparison to the number of black people tortured, butchered and murdered by doctors...it's called "abortion."

- When a person plans and carries out the killing of another person, it is called first degree murder. In states with the death penalty, such a crime usually results in the death sentence for the murderer. What is the difference in that crime and when a woman plans and schedules an appointment at a clinic to murder her unborn child?
- When a person is paid to kill another it is called murder for hire, a crime punishable by death in many states. What is the difference between that and when a woman pays a doctor to murder her unborn child?

- When two or more people plan the killing of another person, it is called conspiracy to commit murder. What is the difference between that and when a woman contacts a clinic and schedules an appointment with the doctor and staff to murder her unborn child?
- When an innocent bystander is killed by bank robbers during the robbery, even the person waiting in the getaway car is charged with murder. What is the difference between that and the medical staff which accompany the doctor as he murders an unborn child?

How many millions of black lives have ended in this barbaric manner? Why aren't the Black Lives Matter supporters protesting en masse at the abortion clinics? Where are the riots over such despicable butchery? Why aren't the Black Lives Matter supporters demanding that the doctors who have killed so many black people be brought to justice? I hope it *never* happens, but I haven't heard of any doctors being assaulted or shot at because black lives matter. There is an undeniable, unmistakable double-standard at work.

*Ah, yes, Brother Martin, but have you forgotten that abortion is legal?* That logic says that something which has been made legal is perfectly acceptable, even if it contradicts what God has said. The law may state that abortion is legal, but God has said He hates the shedding of innocent blood and counts it an abomination (Proverbs 6:16-19). Taking that logic even further to an absurd and irrational conclusion, if a law were passed making it legal to kill black people, would that settle the issue? Absolutely not, because such a law did, in essence, exist at one time and it was part of the impetus which led to the Civil War.

Which do you think matters most to God: the black lives living in society or unborn black lives? I have news for you: God considers all lives, born and unborn, black or any other skin color, to be of equal value. I can understand the lost not fully grasping this truth. But when Christians differentiate between skin colors and born or unborn, it means they do not know what God has said...*or they just don't care.*

Do you think it matters to God what our next president believes about human life, born and unborn?

What's really happening within the Body of Christ is that so many Christians have become more concerned with political and social agendas than they are with what God has said in His Word. Some may counter that social injustices are serious and must be addressed, and they are correct. However, social injustices can only be truly fixed when people turn their hearts toward God and their minds to His Word. Remember, man's wisdom is foolishness to God (1 Corinthians 3:19).

I never cease to be amazed, even shocked, when I hear or read Christians who claim to know scripture declare, in essence, that Christians have no business getting involved with politics; that our nation does not need to be a theocracy. What is a theocracy? It is a form of government in which God is recognized as being the ultimate Ruler of a nation, with His word having the final say in all matters. How does the concept of a theocratic United States line up with scripture?

***Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. (Psalm 33:12)***

***Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD. (Psalm 145:15)***

God established Israel as a theocratic nation under Moses and then Joshua. Though Israel later demanded to have a king, every king who submitted to God and His Word resulted in the nation being blessed with a strong economy, flourishing agriculture, health, and security and success when facing militaristic enemy nations. However, the kings who rejected God and His Word, just going through the motions of being religious and God-fearing, always and without exception led the nation into apostasy, degradation, economic ruin, invasion by foreign powers and, in one case, total defeat and captivity (70 years in Babylon). These patterns are repeated over and over in scripture. This being true, why *wouldn't* we want a president (or governor or mayor) who bows his knee to Jesus and declares God's Word to be the final say in all matters?

*Ah, yes, Brother Martin, but all those examples are from the Old Testament. We are a New Testament generation.* Yes, those examples are from the Old Testament. But God has said in Psalm 33:11, ***The counsel of the LORD standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.*** His counsel, not the Old Testament Law, stands forever, even to our New Testament Generation.

A recurring theme I have observed coming from many Christians focuses on such matters as the economy, education, immigration/building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico, tax reform, health care and terrorism. Along with these issues is the shocking manner in which many Christians are attacking both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump with unbridled virulence. Such Christians evidently think they are above God's Word concerning what He said in 1 Timothy 2:1-6 and Romans 13:1-7. Let me make this very clear: It is *impossible* to walk in God's love toward leaders and trash them at the same time, it *cannot* be done.

Numerous Christians mercilessly attack Mrs. Clinton or Mr. Trump for things they did 30-35 years ago. I'm glad those Christians have ignored what I was doing 35 years ago; if what I said or did back then were used as the measuring stick for my life, I would be disqualified for ministry and would never have preached one sermon. More than what the candidates did 35 years ago, Christians need to be concerned about what they believe *now*.

I fully agree that the economy, health care, education, immigration, tax reform and dealing with terrorism are among the issues facing our nation which need to be addressed. But of far greater and critical importance are the issues that God considers to be in need of our attention. I cannot tell you who to vote for, but I can tell you what God has declared in the Bible.

For example, in 1976 the Hyde Amendment was passed, **prohibiting the use of federal money for abortion, except in cases when the mother's life is at stake, or in cases of rape or incest.** The present, documented platform of the Democrat Party - and endorsed by Hillary Clinton - is to completely repeal the Hyde Amendment and make federal funds available to pay for almost all abortions, including all abortions beyond the 20<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. On the other hand, Donald Trump is on record as saying he is opposed to abortion, "with caveats - the life of the mother, incest, rape."

I have already identified from the Bible that God considers the shedding of innocent blood to be an abomination. Do we honestly believe that God places the condition of our economy above the blatant murder of unborn children, those He calls His heritage and reward (Psalm 127:3)? A broken economy can be restored; a murdered life cannot.

Along with this, the Democrat Party and Hillary Clinton have declared full support for same-sex marriage along with special privileges for people identifying themselves as part of the lesbian, bi-sexual, gay, transgender segment of society. Donald Trump is on record as saying marriage should be for a man and a woman. Setting their positions aside, what does God say?

In Romans 13:13, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3-5, and Colossians 3:5 we see such words and phrases as: chambering, wantonness, fornicators, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, uncleanness, lasciviousness, whoremonger, unclean person, inordinate affection and evil concupiscence. I won't even begin to type out all of the various Greek words from which the above English words were translated. Briefly they mean: adultery, sex between unmarried couples, homosexuality (male or female), bestiality, sodomy, cross-dressing, sadomasochism, pornography, sex with prostitutes (male or female), sexual feelings for children and any accompanying actions; there is more, but the message is clear. This doesn't even begin to address what God said in Romans 1:18-2:16.

God said people who make such behavior a part of their lives will not spend eternity with Him. One of the major sins Israel committed which led to the nation's downfall was the descent into the various sexual sins identified above. When a corrupt king allowed these perversions to take place, God's anger intensified. Do we honestly believe that laws passed by man allowing such actions placates God and convinces Him those wicked acts of deviance are no longer sin? What is especially appalling is when Christians begin defending perversions, declaring we need to respect the feelings of others.

When Christians no longer accept God's Word as the final authority on a subject, they will create their own standards for living. This is precisely what Israel did and it led to calamity over and over again. In fact, there were even times when the Israelites protested when a God-fearing king demanded that they return to living by what His Word declared. If we call ourselves Christians, why would we not want God's Word to define and be enforced as the guideline for our society? If we call ourselves Christians, why would we not want a president, governor, mayor, judge, commissioner or any other leader to follow God's standards as much as possible?

I cannot tell you who to vote for. I am not endorsing any candidates or political parties. What I am doing is pointing out that there are issues far more critical than education, the economy, health care and so on. I am also pointing out that even though a candidate for any political office may appear to say the right things concerning immigration, terrorism, the economy, etc., that candidate may still be in absolute rebellion to the authority of God and His Word.

What we need to do is use God's Word as the litmus test for any politician's core values. I am very aware that not all politicians are truly born again. Even so, there are still some which hold to good, moral values. We are at a point in history when we must not always see voting for a politician as an endorsement of that person and all of what he or she has done. Instead, it's as though we must evaluate who we least want in office, which candidate is most opposed to God and His Word, and vote for the other person. Though this would hold true for an election at any level, it is especially important for the office of President of the United States: we must evaluate the values of both the candidate and the running mate, knowing that the Vice-President is one heartbeat away from being the President. Refusing to vote because "we don't like so-and-so" is not a valid reason to stay home from the polls.

I realize not everyone may appreciate what I have written this month. But as Christians, we need to understand we are accountable for our actions, which would include our attitudes toward politicians and our reasons for voting for particular candidates. In the United States, voting determines presidents, governors, mayors, commissioners, and others holding office. God does not violate our free will and make us vote for one person or the other; if He did, all elections would be unanimous regarding who God wants us to vote for. If we vote for someone who openly and blatantly defies God and His Word, we will reap what we sow.

Before voting in the upcoming - or any other - election, I encourage you to pray, pray, pray and ask God for His leadership concerning who should receive your vote. Compare the core values of candidates to the eternal truth that God has established in the Bible. Cast down emotions, for they only serve to bring confusion. Vote the way God leads and let's do our best to live as Christ in the world.

In His Grace,



>>>> **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT** <<<<

Our 2017 Prayer and Power Conference will be Sunday, April 23 - Friday, April 28. Our host hotel will again be the:

Country Inn and Suites

3971 Colonel Glenn Highway, Fairborn, Ohio 45324

(937) 429-2222, email shekira.kanemoto@countryinns.com,

web site <https://www.countryinns.com/beavercreek-hotel-oh-45324/ohfairbo/rooms>

Rates per night (tax not included): Double Queen: \$105; King Standard \$105; King Suite \$120.

Room space is limited. Those attending are responsible for making their own hotel reservations.

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Have you ever heard someone say something like, "How could a loving God send anyone to Hell?" Did you know how to answer? My sermon CD offer this month will help you know how to clearly answer such a question with scripture.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here to receive a CD of the sermon, "God's Love, His Grace and Hell"

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My love gift is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to "Jim Martin Ministries.")

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