

I. Greeting:

Grace, peace, and mercy from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Savior to my brothers and sisters in Christ.

II. *“If you are concerned ...”*

1. This is the headline on the marquee of Jim Ebert’s Furniture store on Hickory Tree Road in Davidson County. The response recommends one read 2 Chronicles 7:14
 - a. ¹⁴ *if my people, who are called by my name,*
 - b. *will humble themselves and*
 - c. *pray and seek my face and*
 - d. *turn from their wicked ways, then **I will hear from***
heaven, and
 - e. ***I will forgive their sin and***
 - f. ***will heal their land.***¹

2. Listen to this prayer Pastor Joe Wright of Wichita’s Central Christian Church prayed for the Kansas legislature:
 - i. “Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance.
 - ii. We know Your word says, “Woe to those who call evil good,” but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.
 - iii. We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your word in the name of moral pluralism.
 - iv. We have worshipped other gods and called it “multi-culturalism.”

- v. We have endorsed perversion and called it an “alternative lifestyle.”
 - vi. We have exploited the poor and called it “a lottery.”
 - vii. We have neglected the needy and called it “self-preservation.”
 - viii. We have rewarded laziness and called it “welfare.”
 - ix. In the name of “choice,” we have killed our unborn.
 - x. In the name of “right to life,” we have killed abortionists.
 - xi. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it “building esteem.”
 - xii. We have abused power and called it “political savvy.”
 - xiii. We’ve coveted our neighbors’ possessions and called it “taxes.”
 - xiv. We’ve polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it “freedom of expression.”
 - xv. We’ve ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it “enlightenment.”
 - xvi. Search us, O God, and know our hearts today. Try us, and show us [if there be] any wicked in us.”
 - xvii. Cleanse us from every sin, and set us free...²
3. The noteworthy thing is that Pastor Wright prayed this prayer in the year 2000, not 2020!
- i. Sadly, our national decay is more prevalent now than it was twenty years ago and it is accelerating.

III. War

1. **Brothers and sisters, I ask you to start looking at everything going on in our nation through a *spiritual lens*.**

- i. When you do that, you will see that we are in a spiritual war!
- ii. “There is a battle taking place to destroy Christianity in our nation.³”
- iii. Listen to this recent account by Dave Kubal, minister and President of Intercessors for America
 - a. *I am 6’2”, 230 pounds, and an avid cross fitter. I am not easily intimidated. For the first time in my life, in America, I feared for my physical safety. And where? One block from the White House in our Nation’s Capital.*
 - b. *I sensed a palpable, supernatural, unified spirit of anger. Ephesians 2:2 describes “. . . the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience . . .” It is one thing to experience the riots and protests from a safe distance on the internet or television. It is another to walk in the midst of what is clearly a spiritual battle.⁴*
- 2. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul wrote:
 - i. *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph: 6-12; NKJV)*

IV. How did we get here?

- 1. That is a subject for another day and another presentation.
- 2. But, we got here in part because

- i. Many churches have ignored and disobeyed the commandment to be engaged in winning people to Jesus Christ;
 - a. they have allowed unbelievers to multiply
- ii. Jesus tells us we must be ‘salt’ and ‘light’

Erwin Lutzer states in his book, *The Church in Babylon, ...*

- a. “Today, we are intimidated by our culture ...we don’t want to offend anybody, we do not want to take a stand that will put us at odds with onerous court decisions or cultural streams that carry us along like an aimless log of wood. We are silent when we should speak; we are passive when we should act.” ⁵
- b. “We are asked to be a holy witness within the world rather than to isolate ourselves from the world despite the risks.” ⁶
- c. “Jesus asks us to be both salt and light, but too often we are neither. Remember: Salt is used as a preservative. Light is to illuminate.
 - i. worthless salt is to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet (Matthew 5: 13)”
- d. And, “When the light flickers and fades, darkness reigns”
- e. “Jesus is the best hope for the world.”
- f. “We need to see these predicaments are a test of our faithfulness (and not lapse into anger and hopelessness)” ⁷

V. You probably have heard a number of individuals state, “*This election is the most critical election ever in this country!*”

1. *EVERY* election is important!
2. With each successive election, it becomes more evident our nation is increasingly divided – not just by political party but by clashing worldviews! ⁸

3. The truth of the matter is Christians *have failed to show up to vote* in *many, many* previous elections. “Millions of Christians too often sit at home on election day.
 - i. We complain about the secularization of America, yet when it comes time to elect people who share our values or at least protect them in the public square, we do not exercise our power.”⁹
 - ii. Research has shown that approximately 25 million Christians fail to vote in presidential elections.¹⁰
 - iii. Think about the enormity of that number. Imagine what our political landscape would look like if 25 million Christians *had* exercised their *power* and cast their votes for leaders with a biblical worldview.¹¹

VI. Why do I vote?

1. I vote because it is my duty

- i. As a follower of Christ it is my responsibility to be faithful with the authority God has given me to vote for our elected leaders. Jesus said, “*To whom much is given much is required*” (Luke 12:48).¹²
 - ii. As a Moravian, it is my responsibility as outlined in the section on *The Witness of a Christian Citizen* in the *Moravian Covenant for Christian Living*
- ii. Quoting from the *Covenant* ...

B. Responsibilities

a. ²⁶ *Considering it a special privilege to live in a democratic society, we will faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of our citizenship, among which are intelligent and well-informed voting, a willingness to assume public office, guiding the decisions of government by the expression of our opinions, and supporting good government by our personal efforts.*

C. A Higher Loyalty ²⁷ *Though giving our loyalty to the state of which we are citizens, we do recognize a higher loyalty to God and conscience (Acts 5:29).* ¹³

2. I vote to elect servant leaders who try to do what is best for the people; _____

3. I vote to expel bad leaders;

4. I vote to promote just laws and the enforcement of them

5. I vote to protect against deceitful leaders;

6. I vote to protect life: born and unborn, young and old, healthy and infirmed;

7. I vote to protect against hurtful policies;

8. I vote because I love my country. ¹⁴

i. I want to vote for its protection and its righteousness. I want to vote for leaders who will continue to enact Biblical principles in our government. Without Judeo Christian principles as the basis for our laws, our country as founded cannot survive.

9. I vote because not voting is foolish.

i. I am sure you have heard the excuses ...

a. **“It’s too hard,” or “I don’t have time.”**

i. This is mere laziness. God works through us and He expects us to hold our government accountable to righteousness.

- b. **“There is no one good enough on the ballot.”**
Jesus is not running for an office! He already has one!!
 - i. Everyone you ever vote for will be a sinner.
 - ii. I am not looking for perfect leaders, but I am looking for capable, servant-hearted leaders.
- c. **“I don’t know who to vote for.”** We have a duty to be informed of the goings-on of our government, and there are organizations devoted to educating and equipping believers in this area.
 - i. I have listed some on the handout.
 - i. *MyFaithVotes*
 - ii. *TruethVote2020*
- d. **“Church isn’t supposed to be involved in politics.”** Politics are the outgrowth of personal beliefs — beliefs that reflect the very core of who we are and what we value. ¹⁵
 - i. “If we remove ourselves from politics, the door opens for moral decay and cultural shift which inevitably changes the direction of a government that honors God.” ¹⁶
 - ii. There are excellent resources that guide the Christian into understanding the roles God has established for the family, the church, and the state. If you are confused on this, avail yourself of some easily obtained resources (e.g. I highly recommend D. James Kennedy Ministries resources)

VII. FEAR.

- 1. The media is stoking fear in the populace. Their intent is to discourage you from voting.

- i. Fear - that you will contract the coronavirus if you venture out of your house and go to the polling place.
 - ii. Fear - that protestors and anarchists will be at the polling places and will bully and intimidate you from voting.
 - iii. Fear - that there will be post-election riots or a war if a certain candidate does not win.
2. **In this season, even the most confident Christian may find themselves standing against fear. But stand we must.**
 3. I believe we are going to find ourselves in situations we can't walk around or avoid, but must walk through.
 4. Sometimes you just have to do it afraid knowing God is with you.¹⁷

Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness; and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Eph 6:13–17; NKJV)

5. **Be assured: we will walk through the darkness without harm**

VIII. What can YOU do? How can YOU make a difference?

1. Pray

- i. Pray for our country. Pray for our leaders.
- ii. Pray for repentance of our national and personal sins
- iii. Use Prayer resources
 - a. *Prayer Guide for Elections* provided by **Intercessors for America**

- b. Two prayers Jim Newsome at Friedberg is having his congregation use to pray daily through Thanksgiving
- iv. *Pray unceasingly*

2. Think

- i. Read the parties' platforms!
 - a. The political parties are no longer the parties of your parents and grandparents
 - i. To continue to vote as your ancestors always voted is foolish and dangerous
- ii. Choose parties and candidates who base their morals and policies on the Bible ¹⁸
 - a. Do not constrain your research to just the presidential candidates
 - b. Remember: all government is local
 - c. Know your local candidates' views and if you cannot find information about it, ask them directly
 - d. And do not forget about non-affiliated races (like judges); these races are as important as the Executive and Legislative branch elections
 - e. And think about who the electors will be; it is not just the popular vote that is important in the Presidential election
 - f. And please VET your school board candidates!
- iii. Survey the action and policies of candidates in the past; choose the one who has *demonstrably advanced* policies friendly to Biblical values that Christians hold dear; demonstrably – not just 'talked' about it ¹⁹
 - a. And voting for someone based on how they look or sound is foolish as well
 - b. Know what you are voting for
- iv. **Think for yourself**; do not let mainstream media and TV ads 'think' for you!

- a. Mainstream media’s objective is no longer to report fact
- b. Their objective is to construct a ‘narrative, a story’ [*their* words], of their opinion which is almost exclusively a secular worldview where there is no absolute truth; truth is whatever the individual feels it to be

3. Act

- a. With the pandemic this year and civil unrest, the 2020 election is ripe for fraud.
- b. Both *TruetheVote* and *MyFaithVotes* are two organizations that need Christians to help monitor the voting process
 - i. Both organizations provide a way for you to be actively involved – whether that be from your home or in person at the polls or where mailed in ballots are counted
- c. Get this message to other Christian voters!
 - i. If nothing else, each one of you needs to identify Christian who is thinking about not voting and educate them on this election’s importance and the issues, and then help them get to the polls and solicit them to actively help, and to Pray-Pray-Pray

4. Vote

- a. An **ARMY** of Christian voters *must show up* at the polls
- b. To assure your vote gets counted, please go to your polling place unless you absolutely must do an absentee ballot

- c. In NC, we have many opportunities to vote ‘early’, so I encourage you to make your decisions and vote early to minimize COVID exposure
- d. The Media Apparatus wants you to think that there is no point for you to vote
 - a. They want you to be discouraged; that the polls are true and you are wasting your time to vote
 - b. The one thing they fear the most is that ***you Will show*** up at the polls
- e. This election is about stemming a tide of national self-destruction. It is no time to sit on the sidelines²⁰
- f. Abraham Lincoln called the United States, “the last, best hope of earth.”²¹
- g. I encourage you to pray every day: morning and evening for national and personal repentance and our RETURN to God.
- h. Finally: to fail to register and vote ***is a ‘sin against God’***²²
 - i. “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin” (James 4:17).

IX. Concluding Prayer: let us pray: ***Heavenly Father, do not let us live in fear. Help us to make no provision for the enemy to attack, and give our nation wisdom and discernment. Let us stand up for what is right, and guide us in Your Word.***²³

~ AMEN

ENDNOTES

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