

WD November 4, 2024

“Who I Voted For”

Last week I had the privilege of holding my newest grandson for the first time, all six pounds of him. His little head is already full of hair. His beautiful little face is full of expression especially when it's time to eat. When it's time to eat momma has to pull back the tightly wound blanket so that he wakes up to eat. He doesn't like being cold so he throws a little bit of a fit which wakes him up so that he will eat. Most of the time he is sleeping or tightly swaddled.

The evening after he was born, my wife, Tricia, also known as Nana, was sitting in a chair next to mine in our living room. We were talking about our grandson. All of the sudden she looked at me firmly and said, “Now don't you go over to the hospital and pull your pastor card. Don't you dare hold that child before I do....I'm not kidding.” I just laughed and promised that I wouldn't do that. So, when we did go to see him Nana got to hold him before Dubs (That's me.)

I love all of my grands. When I think about the election this week that's who I am voting for. I'll explain.

I am voting for the freedom to worship Jesus and express the Christian faith. Over and over again in scripture is the slippery slope is towards idolatry that forces God's people to suffer for their faith. The three men in the fiery furnace in Daniel 3. The Lion's den in Daniel 6. Peter and John being thrown into jail for preaching Jesus in Acts 4. I am voting for one I think will create the best possibility for my grands to worship without persecution.

I am voting for an environment that would allow for the best development of Christian character. Truth for example is not a value of secular politicians. We are all weary of politics because Politicians lie like they breathe air. Politicians say something that doesn't poll well, then will tell you they didn't say it even when it's been on camera with them saying it. Again we shouldn't be surprised. Israel's first King, King Saul lacked the integrity to follow God's Word. When Samuel asked him why he didn't follow the Lord's command to destroy the Amalekites Saul initially said that he did, when he clearly did not. King Herod built whole cities to earn favor with Caesar and improved the Temple to keep the Israelites happy.

And so, I am voting for one who will promote an environment where my granddaughter doesn't have to be afraid of a confused boy using the same locker room because he says he's a girl. Or an environment that accepts my grands as a male and female as God has made them to be. One that isn't vindictive towards them because they stand on God's Word as their standard for truth.

I am also voting for someone who isn't going to endlessly come up with more and more reasons to impoverish my grandkids. Proverbs 11:1 says, The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.” God hates any kind of fraud. Micah 6 speaks of Israelites using dishonest scales to cheat the poor. Someone gets rich at the expense of the poor. Herod was once famous for his excessive taxes. So was Solomon. The topic of taxes played a role in the division of Israel after Solomon. Once a system gets entrenched the favored get rich and no one wants to turn off the money train. Someone will eventually pay for the 35 trillion-dollar debt hanging over us all. Inflation is not the worst thing that will happen. Put enough pressure on anything and it will break. I pray for someone to have the will to take that burden off my grandkids. Someone needs to start saying “no” to the ridiculous spending problem we have. Someone needs to regain some accountability for what is spent and where.

Jesus who knows our sins paid our debt. He knows the damage debt can do. Jesus placed our sin and shame on Jesus like he deserved it and we didn't. That's how “he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor” (Micah 6:8 MSG).

I am voting for the promotion of value given to the human life of my grands. Saving the life of a human being is vital. Abortion isn't something to be promoted and it certainly doesn't have a single thing to do with reproductivity. Abortion does not promote health. Looking at my grands as a human being made in the image of God is what I am aiming for. I don't want some teacher trying to tell them that they evolved from nothing. I don't want them treated as an experiment in gender reconstruction. I don't want them to be targeted by a school

official telling them that they are something they are not. I do not want some doctor or nurse someday looking at them merely as a statistic when they need good medical care. I am voting for the promotion of human life.

I am voting for the best version of things that would bring about the least amount of obstacles to their Christian faith. I do not put my faith in politicians. Elections are not the solution to our problems. Truthfully, much just gets worse. And there is no period of history that is ideal. Indeed, the Lord tells us we are more likely to be hated and persecuted. Lord knows there has been plenty of that in recent years. And as one looks back on the heroes of faith, they all faced haters and trouble. Mary and Joseph didn't live in ideal conditions. Neither did the disciples after them.

We all know that generally politicians are the problem. Given my choices though, I am voting for the best possible candidates that will give my grandkids the best possible chance to be free to live a Christian life. My voting choices may disagree with others but like them I am voting with the best hope for something decent and good for my family. When I voted this year, I voted for my grandchildren.

As I end today, I would like to do so with a prayer.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, through Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, You have made us citizens of the new heavens and earth, heirs of Your everlasting reign over creation, and treasured members of Your own household. You have also given us life in this physical land as a token of Your abundant grace. And You have instituted governing authorities as Your ministers, to secure our welfare and mediate Your temporal blessings. As we take part in elections, motivate us with faith in Your providence and with love for our neighbors. Guide our minds to cast votes for those candidates who will best lead us in establishing and preserving safety, fairness, and freedom for all who reside here, especially the most vulnerable among us. Lest we forget our own responsibilities; Fill us with Your own charity to treat each other with respect despite our disagreements about what and who most effectively serves the common good. Grant our nation Your peace and protection from all that would divide or bring harm from without and from within. Finally, strengthen us to put our ultimate trust not in princes but in Your forgiveness and resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Matt Woods
John 3:30