



This is an election year when there will be voting for candidates for office on both the local, state and federal level all the way up to the office of the President. Citizens of this country have the right and the privilege to cast their votes for the various candidates to be elected to office. This is a vital part of the operation of the constitutional republic known as the United States of America. When it comes to the actual voting, how do you vote? By this, I do not mean what party or candidate that you vote for but rather what determines how you cast your vote?

Citizens of this nation who are also Christians need to consider very careful how they vote when it comes to the matter of determining how they cast their vote. In this current election cycle there are a lot of issues that are being discussed – Homeland Security, the involvement of the military in places like Iraqi and Afganistan in the fight against Islamic terrorism, the economy, the price of gas, health care, social security, taxes and on we could go. All of these issues are important, how the candidates will deal with them if they are elected and how they would vote on them should be of importance to each of us.

However, there are a number of other important issues that need to be considered. Some of these are Abortion, Homosexual rights and “marriage,” euthanasia etc. Do we know where the candidates stand on these issues and what would they seek to do regarding these if they are elected to office and how they would vote on them? These, too, are important issues that need to be dealt with.

When it comes to determining which candidate to vote for, very often people, including Christians make their determination based on how it affects the bottom line – their pocket book. Whether they will be financially better off if one candidate is elected or or part elected to office. Important as these matters are, the other issues that we mentioned above, those that we could refer to as “moral” issues are even more important. What difference will it make if our pocket book is protected but the moral and family values of the nation continue to nose dive? What kind of future will we leave for the next generation if the moral and family values that made this nation great continued to be eroded?

As Christians we are under obligation to be good citizens and respect the government (Romans 13:1-7). The only time that Christians have a right to oppose the authority of the government is when said government seeks to compel the Christian to violate the will of God. At that point we must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

Christians who live in this nation are blessed with the privilege of being a part of the choosing of those who will govern. However, this privilege also brings responsibility. Christians must use their vote wisely and in accord with Christian principles. Can it be possibly right for one to vote for a candidate who will uphold the killing of babies (abortion), homosexual rights (including “marriage”), euthanasia and other issues that continue to destroy the nation’s morals and values just because they promise that our pockets will be better off? Surely, as Christians we should say that we would rather have our pockets a little less full and have the moral and family values that were the underpinnings of this nation restored? Christian – when you go to the polls – vote in harmony with God’s will and oppose those who would seek to destroy God’s ways.

*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Kathy Treadway’s mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

On July 27, we will have Barbeque, trimmings and desert for a fellowship meal following the morning worship. There will be a sign –up sheet for what to bring and help is needed to purchase the Barbeque. Sister Grimsley is doing some better but still not able to be out.

Lanny Niver was not out last Sunday as he spent a couple of days in the hospital.

The Wilsons were not out Wednesday evening. Jennifer was not well and had to go to the doctor. Steven had had braces put on and was in much pain. Then, to top that off, Kimberly had a tire go out while doing something for work. Fortunately, the car was stopped or the blowout would have probably flipped the car. Ron had to go check on her while Janice stayed with the sick.

### **“But The Very Hairs Of Your Head Are All Numbered”**

How many hairs do you have on your head? I do not know how many hairs I have on my head, and I doubt that you know how many you have on yours, but someone does. It is not your spouse or your barber/hair dresser or doctor or parents or children – it is God. He knows how many hairs are on your head (Matthew 10:30). And He knows many more important things about you too.

He knows how you feel when you are lonely. He was all by himself (in more ways than one) in Gethsemane. He was often all by himself in prayer to his Father – even spending the entire night praying alone. He faced his accusers and judge all alone. He knows.

He knows how you feel when a close friend betrays you. It was Judas, one of his twelve closest associates, whose kiss delivered him into the hands of his enemies. It was the remainder of that special twelve that deserted him in his hour of greatest need. Three of them, having been taken a little farther along than the others in Gethsemane, failed even to remain awake while he was praying and sweating drops like blood. He knows.

He knows how you feel when you are tired and weary. Having been up all night being falsely accused and beaten, he was made to carry a part of his cross up to Calvary. The cumulative effect of physical and mental exhaustion reached a crescendo when he fell beneath the load. He knows.

He knows how you feel when you lose a loved one. Lazarus, his dear friend, died and in the shortest verse in the Bible his response is recorded – Jesus wept. He felt the pain of loss. When we consider that he knew that he was about to raise Lazarus from the dead even as he wept, I think it gives added beauty to the fellowship we have with him at such times. He knows.

Whatever it is that we face, we know that he faced it also. He was in all points tempted like as we are. He experienced to the full the human experience. He bids us come to him and find in him the foundation and motivation and strength we need to be the kind of people we should be. He knows – and he wants to help you. Will you come to him?

*Tim Smith  
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