

Quadrennial Zoo Visit

Election 2020

HBC 10/4/20

Proverbs 21:1–2

My goal for this message is to apply a pastor's heart to the sheep who are being pushed, pulled and berated along with the tsunami of political bilge and acrimony raging across our nation. I want to urge you and help you to think Biblically as you decide what to do with your precious vote.

You might be tempted to close your eyes, turn your back, and **not vote** at all. I get that. But I don't think it's wise. We, in this country, have a privilege and a political standing that only a tiny minority of Christians have ever known. I think ignoring that privilege is bad stewardship.

Maybe you're of the mindset to not vote for the candidate of either major party, for any number of reasons. (And I know, that number of reasons is a big number.) I understand that thinking and I respect it. The fact is, though, that one of the two major party candidates will win this election. Therefore if you don't vote for one of the major party candidates, it effectively **takes away a vote** for the one you might have voted for and inches forward the likelihood of the worst outcome. It's not evil to vote for a minor party or a write-in candidate, but I don't believe it is the best stewardship of your right to vote.

Above all, **do not fret over the outcome of any election.**

Proverbs 16:1: *The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.*

Human responsibility includes our freedom to choose between options in many things every day. But **human responsibility** is always subject to God's **absolute sovereignty**.

Proverbs 16:33: *The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.*

Proverbs 19:21: *Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand.*

I. **Apply Sound Doctrine**

Proverbs 21:1–2: *The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes. Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.*

We have a lot of freedom to make choices, so we need wisdom to be faithful to the moral will of God. I urge you to fight the battle to set aside everything but the word of God as your ultimate authority. I need to argue for, lobby for, and vote for what best honors God and leads toward treating every human being with an even hand in all places and at all stages of life. We do not have a political party in our country that can be in any way labeled **Christian** or **Biblical**. Both major parties are riddled with secularism and various shades

of immorality and hypocrisy. To equate being a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ with voting in support of one or the other political parties is a very serious error.

II. **Weigh Ideas Carefully**

This election cycle, to say *It's a zoo out there* is an understatement. My title is **Quadrennial Zoo Visit**. Quadrennial means **every four years**. The situation is certainly a metaphorical **zoo**, but also, the symbols of the two major parties are both animals. Every four years we are pressed to examine what's happening in the political zoo, so this is our Quadrennial Zoo Visit.

We do not have a major party candidate who believes the Gospel or is a good moral example. We'll come back to that problem. For now, let's think about the set of ideas promoted by both of these zoo animals, then we'll talk about the people. The ideas are even more important than particular people. We'll won't delve into the details, but we can apply clear Biblical principles to several topics.

Abortion is a huge one for Christians. One of the zoo species is totally in favor of as many abortions as possible. They regard a terrible 1973 Supreme Court decision as the "law of the land," even though it has never been passed as a law by congress. The mis-named "law" says that any unborn child can be exterminated at the whim of its mother. Zoo species #2 promotes the opposite view. The issue of abortion is the one over which there is the most clear choice in this election.

Economy and the national debt is another important issue with Biblical principles in play. One of the zoo animals is guilty of ridiculously irresponsible spending and indebtedness. So is the other one. On this issue, I doubt anything short of totally replacing the House and the Senate will make a difference. Our grandchildren are being set up for economic collapse. On this issue, choose your poison.

Our nation's policies about **refugees, illegal immigration and immigration** in general is a point of significant difference. We have one animal that advocates irresponsible and dangerously wide-open immigration laws that short-circuit foundations aspects of our nation's history. The zoo animal currently calling the shots has moved us in a profoundly anti-Christian direction of slamming the door on refugees whose lives are endangered in other countries. No Christian should be anti-refugee any more than they should be pro-abortion.

The **role of government and police** has risen to high visibility recently. The two main animals in the zoo are headed in opposite directions. Those who want to eliminate or "de-fund" police talk a good game, but they can't live by it when someone comes to torch their business or murder their family.

No Christian should excuse rioting or violence in the name of political change. Protesting and speaking your mind is a precious thing in our country, but the moment you throw a stone, strike a person, or light a fire, you cease to be a voice for change, and you become a criminal. It's never acceptable on any part of the political spectrum. It's as wrong at a Black Lives Matter event as it is at a Ku Klux Klan event.

The only way to solve racial problems is to bring people to Christ, and to bring them under the authority of Scripture so that they understand that the very definition of **race** is anti-biblical. **Racism** in every form and variation of who hates whom or who regards themselves as superior or is Satanic.

The **LGBTQ+ agenda, same-sex marriage, and morality in general** are very important issues. On this one, one of the zoo animals *is caving in* to the rapidly-degenerating bandwagon of calling good “evil” and calling “evil” good. The other zoo animal has already *finished caving in*.

There are many other important issues, worthy of consideration and over which the zoo animals differ. Health care, voter ID, illegal alien voting, school choice, foreign trade, foreign policy in general, environmental regulation, military issues, drug enforcement, and on and on.

III. **Choose The Least Objectionable**

I hope you agree with my conviction that the best stewardship of our privilege to vote, is to vote Zoo Animal One or Zoo Animal Two because one or the other is going to be elected. I choose to try to avoid the unintended consequence of helping a worse candidate get elected. You can get to heaven even if you don't share that conviction, but I hope to help you think differently.

I've dodged it so far, but I need to talk about the *elephant in the room*. I also need to talk about the *donkey in the room*. When you decide which of the list of ideas you want to dominate our nation's leadership for the next four years, whatever you choose comes with individual names at the top of the ticket. What can we say about the presidential choices?

In my opinion, having lived under 13 different presidents, neither of the two with reasonable chances at the office for the next four years pass my own “smell test” for being “presidential.” I cannot enthusiastically support either candidate, so I plan to choose the set of ideas that I find least objectionable in the sight of God, while I pray for all those He allows to be in positions of authority over us, as commanded in 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

Neither choice is morally worthy of following. One is well-known for multiple acts of adultery in the past. The other also lives under a cloud of suspicion and innuendo for sexual abuse.

One has chosen a prominent woman false prophet as his primary spiritual advisor. The other is a member of largest pseudo-Christian cult in the world, and he hypocritically votes opposite of his Church's doctrine which he claims to believe.

One used to be pro-abortion, and has changed to pro-life. The other used to be pro-life, but has changed to pro-abortion. He used to vote for the Hyde Amendment, and now has vowed to repeal it.

One is relatively old for the job. The other is even older.

One has a running mate also committed to almost everything we oppose. The other has a professing evangelical running mate.

So, what should we do? We need to understand that God is sovereign over all these things. We need to understand that the rampant moral decay in our culture is the result of countless decisions that have been made over generations, and we will get the leaders that God intends to use for His purposes. Whether His purpose for our nation includes a spiritual miracle akin to the Great Awakening, or removing us as the leading power in the world, I cannot say. But I trust Him explicitly to do His will.

I have no qualms about praying that the rapture will come before the election, or praying in general, ***Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*** More than likely the sun will rise on schedule the morning after this election, there will be an inauguration in January, and we will need to continue to step up our efforts preach the gospel to everyone around us and to help it spread around the world, regardless of the election results.

A couple closing thoughts.

Proverbs 14:33–34:

*Wisdom rests in the heart of one who has understanding,
But in the hearts of fools it is made known.*

***Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a disgrace to any people.***

When you cast your ballot, make sure it is done prayerfully and that you can articulate to your Lord why you are voting the way you do.

Finally, I want to say that I'm grieved at how rancorous even Christians are becoming. Weigh the ideas promoted by the animals in the zoo, and prayerfully make the wisest choice you can, before the Lord. But love one another and be committed to one another more than ever.

Severing fellowship with or withdrawing from serving with a brother or sister in Christ over how they vote would be tragic and is sinful.

Romans 14:10–13: *But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written [Isaiah 14], "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."*

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

To let how a person votes in a secular election be a determining factor in how you have fellowship with them is to dishonor the Lord and to harm His precious Bride, the Church.