

INTRODUCTION

A. UNETHICAL

B. DISCUSSION (this sermon & *Testimony* (c.23,para.15,16) in AFN this Wednesday, 9/21/16)

I. ARGUABLE ASSUMPTIONS

A. TWO BAD CHOICES (self-centered: idolatrous, immoral; Rom.1:18f; *contra* Mt.6:10)

B. NEITHER IS ALL BAD (see Rom.2:14f)

C. EACH IS BAD & GOOD IN DIFFERENT WAYS

D. NO OTHER VIABLE OPTION

II. DEFINITION

A. VOTE: COMMITMENT (see votive, vow)

B. HAND PICK (voice, pebble; Acts 14:23; see 26:10(Rev.2:17); see Jn.8:7)

C. HAND ON (see Lev.16:21; Num.27:18; 1Tm.4:14; see 2Jn.1:11; Gal.2:9)

D. SUMMARY: A SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITY (see 1Tim.5:22)

III. PRINCIPLES THAT INCLINE AGAINST VOTING

A. NOT BE ACCESSORY TO SIN (see 1Tm.5:22; see 2Jn.1:11; Gal.2:9)

B. NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED (*participation*; 2Cor.6:14f (see C.Hodge); see Lev.19:19; Dt.22:10)

1. *material: things required by oath of office* (*Testimony*, c.23; para.15,16; "Explanatory Declaration")

2. *intimate (vs. casual): substantial in scope, time* (note: balance of powers; term limits)

3. *voluntary (vs. necessary): other options available* (not required to vote but someone will be elected to office)

4. *example: marriage* (see 1Cor.7:39)

C. OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD (Rom.12:21; see Ps.34:14; 37:27; 101:4)

IV. PRINCIPLES THAT INCLINE TOWARD VOTING

A. STEWARDSHIP: ACCOUNTABLE (Mt.25:14f)

B. A SABBATH PROBLEM: ONLY TWO OPTIONS (Mt.12:12(Mk.3:4; Lk.6:9); see Lk.6:27f; Gal.6:10; Jer.29:7; see 1Pt.3:11(Ps.34:14); see Mt.22:37f)

C. SALT & LIGHT (Mt.5:13f; see Mk.9:50,43f)

D. INNOCENT & WISE (Mt.10:16; see Rom.16:19)

E. IMPERFECTION DOES NOT PRECLUDE FAITHFUL USE (1Cor.10:30f; see 1Tm.4:1-5)

V. PRINCIPLE THAT APPLIES TO BOTH ACTIONS (Rom.14:1f,14,22f)

VI. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. JESUS CHRIST IS KING! TRUST & OBEY HIM! (Acts 2; Rev.4,5; 1Cor.15; Eph.1; see Ps.2,72,110)

B. DO NOT HOPE OR DESPAIR IN PRINCES (Ps.20:7; 118:9; 146:3f)

C. BE A GOOD STEWARD AND DO NO EVIL (Mt.12:12(Mk.3:4; Lk.6:9); see Lk.6:27f; Gal.6:10; see 1Pt.3:11(Ps.34:14); see Mt.22:37f)

D. BE CONSCIENTIOUS IN EVERY VOTE (see 1Cor.10:31)

E. BE A FAITHFUL CITIZEN IN EVERY DUTY (Jer.29:7; 1Tm.2:1f; 1Pt.2:13f; Rom.13:1f)

F. PRAY, PRAY, PRAY! (Jms.1:5; 2Chr.1:11; see 1Tm.2:1f; see Ps.55:17,22; Mk.9:29; Phil.4:6,7; 1Th.5:17)

Discussion: Brethren, what shall we **DO**? (see Acts 2:37)