



## Who is God's Candidate?

**Daniel 2:21:** (NLT) *He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.*



### Special Guest: Len Griehs

In just two days, America will experience what is perhaps the most anticipated Election Day in recent memory. As a country in financial turmoil, we stand at a crossroad: Do we continue to follow the path that the current administration has set under the guidance of President Obama or do we scrap it for an entirely different approach, as laid out by Republican candidate Mitt Romney? What is the role of a Christian in this decision? Is there a right or wrong side for us, or is it not our primary concern? What would Jesus do?

### Election Day 2012: Who is running?

- The Federal Election Commission requires filing a Form 2, "Statement of Candidacy."
- As of October 6, 2012, there were 411 candidates officially registered to have their names on the ballot.
- Some names are not recognizable: ADESHINA, YINKA ABOSEDE (R) or DEBUONAPARTE, HRM CEASAR ST AUGUSTINE from Turtle Island on the Other Party - he has registered in every election since 1996!
- Some very recognizable: ROSEANNE CHERI BARR (Green Party)
- Two legitimate candidates: Barack Obama and Mitt Romney

So, is one of these God's candidate?

### Which candidate said this? (Answer to follow later!)



*"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest (the nation) become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance."*

Is God behind our form of government...or any form of government?

Pastors break federal law for freedom of speech, CW 30 News

- *Hundreds of Pastors will break a federal law this Sunday when they endorse a candidate for President. It is part of a growing movement called, "Pulpit Freedom Sunday."*



- *According to the IRS, churches, which don't pay taxes, cannot participate in a campaign or endorse a politician. But Pulpit Freedom Sunday has been going on for a few years. Pastors say they have the right of freedom of speech, even when it comes to politics.*
- *Reverend Dwight Montgomery clearly is not hiding who he is voting for come November. He wants to make sure his congregation votes the same way.*
- *"...I'm going to use my influence to get them to do the right thing and endorse the right candidate."*

We need to remember that we are Christians first. Whatever emotions we have tied up in whatever political system will have to be balanced with that Christian perspective. Whatever happens, the history of man has gone through many different political systems that have promised to deliver Utopia and all failed. Each has promised a "Golden Age" of peace and prosperity. For the most part, they have tried, failed, and faded away. The ideals may be noble, but the world in which we live makes it impossible to achieve on a global basis.

Throughout the program, we are going to look at various types of man-made governments. For example:



### **God did not want Israel to have a king, but He allowed it:**

1 Samuel 8:6-7: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>*But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed to the LORD.* <sup>7</sup>*The LORD said to Samuel, Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.*

### **Does God make any election go the way He wants it to?**

#### **First, give the context of the following text (our theme text):**

Daniel 2:19-20: (NASB) <sup>19</sup>*Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;* <sup>20</sup>*Daniel said, Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him.*



So, what do we want in a leader?

What I don't want in a president, [thethinkingatheist.com](http://thethinkingatheist.com)

- *Well, I can tell you what I don't want. I don't want someone who was groomed for public office fresh out of college. I don't want some slick "Fear-itician" with a slick suit, and a pretty face, and a fancy new law degree. I want someone who hasn't just read the playbook, and seen the theory, but has been out there on the field in the real world, executing plays. I want somebody who has worked a real job outside of public office. I want somebody who has juggled a career and a family and a mortgage and bills and learned how to make a budget and learned how to live within it. I want someone who has mowed their own lawn and who has changed a flat tire!*

God has a grand plan and our theme text shows He will execute it despite whoever is in a leadership position. He can raise or put down any who are interfering with that plan. One example is George Washington. That spirit of liberty and freedom from oppression was so important from the standpoint of religious freedom and the growth of the reformation. Lincoln is very likely another example, who had certain principles that could withstand the issue of slavery that threatened our nation. God rose up kings like David and Solomon for certain purposes. There is a need and a person identified who can fill that need to advance His plan.

What about the Bush vs. Gore election? Did God oversee the election of Bush for Israel's sake? Consider these points:

- Saddam Hussein was a known sponsor of terror.
- He openly funded Palestinian terror against Israel.
- He contributed \$30-\$35 million to families of genocide bombers.
- It was channeled through what was known as the Arab Liberation Front in West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- The last payment was made April 2003—just 2 months prior to the U.S. assault.
- He was the only real Arab leader that sided morally and financially with the Palestinians.
- The Israeli strategic planners always said that they feared that Jordan would be swallowed by Iraq and expose their whole eastern front.
- That would allow joining up to Palestinians and attacking Israel on the eastern front. Attacking Iraq really relieved that threat.

Would the other candidate have attacked Iraq? Obviously there is no way of knowing. But these are the kind of big events we believe God likely overruled.

Daniel 2:21-22: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>*It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding.* <sup>22</sup>*It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him.*

It's not that we are robots, but at the same time, He will not allow His plan to be thwarted by anyone who becomes too arrogant. He will overrule to make sure things progress the way they should. We don't want to get caught up in the day-to-day events and forget that God has a design for all of creation.



So, did God overrule the election of Bush for Israel's sake?

Politics affects us all, federal law for freedom of speech, CW 30 News

- According to the IRS exemption requirements code, organizations that don't pay taxes (like churches) can't influence legislation or participate in any political activity for or against any candidate.
- The penalty would be that you no longer are tax-exempt. You have to start paying taxes like everyone else. Pastors can educate people about voting and political issues but not endorse a specific candidate running for public office.
- Reverend Montgomery disagrees. He says the government is violating his first amendment rights. "A pastor has the responsibility to provide both for the spiritual and physical and emotional needs of the members. When you talk about politics, politics affects us all."

Another form of man-made government:



One of God's ancient provisions for everyone:

Leviticus 19:9-10: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup>Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.

This was a blanket command of compassion upon the less fortunate.

What is the role of a Christian in a political election?

1 Timothy 2:1-2: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

We are to respect and pray for our leaders, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life.





Another form of man-made government:



Where does a Christian fit in to this form of government?

Consider this proposition: If we have liberty to vote, it is not at all necessary that we should accept or use that liberty. Followers of the Lamb who walk in the footsteps of Jesus would have plenty else to do in following the Lamb. Is our role to be actively involved in the political process?

2 Corinthians 5:20: (NASB) *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

An ambassador represents their home country, and for us, that is heaven.

**Which candidate said this?**



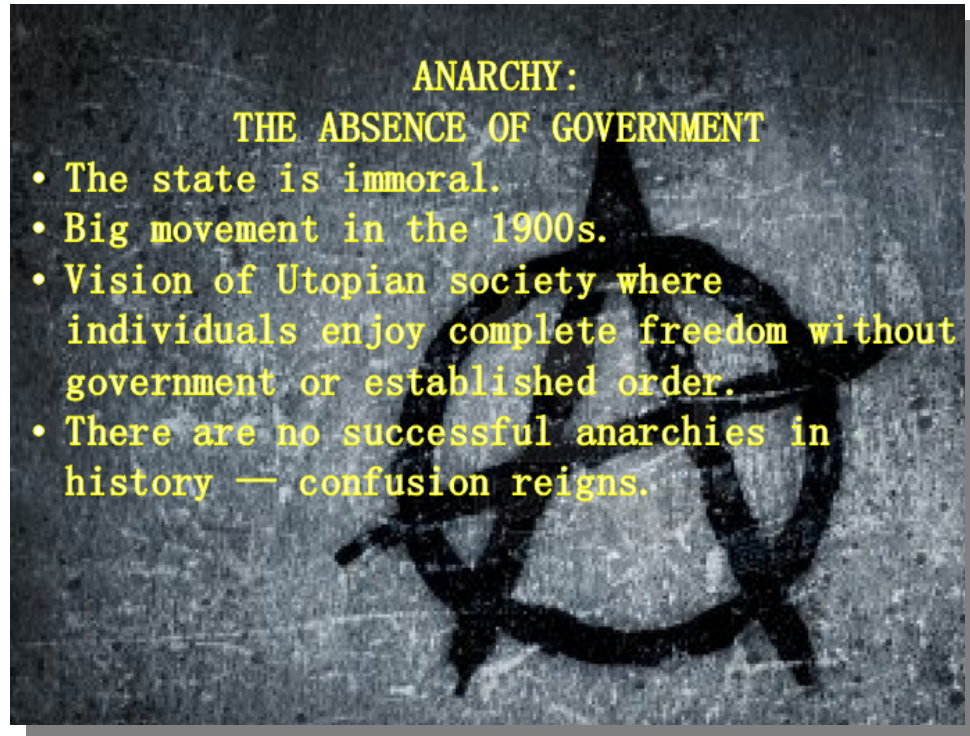
**"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest (the nation) become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance."**

**Answer: Cicero - 55 BC in Rome**

Man's search to resolve our issues never goes away!



Let's touch on another form of man-made Government. Or in this case, lack of government:



**Romans 13:1-3:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same.

What is a Christian's responsibility? Let's review guidelines for ambassadors:

- **Personal integrity:** We need to maintain honesty and set the standard for others, especially during conflict.
- **Alertness to problems and dignity of individuals:** Do we have the willingness to try to improve the situation, not becoming irrational, having a sense of action?
- **Objectivity:** Can we take an unbiased view to see things from God's standpoint? Jesus took an unprejudiced view of people.
- **Independence:** Can we stand apart from the issues of the day and not be unduly influenced by the politics of our day?
- **Development of others:** On an individual basis, can we correct injustices wherever possible, not ignoring what is going on around us? Can we help others overcome their weaknesses?
- **Interest in major problems of the day:** We are the first generation capable of eradicating the entire earth and its inhabitants.

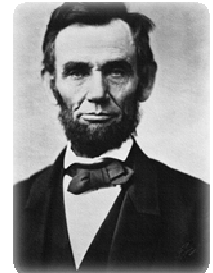


"The new technology has fundamentally altered the way in which the modern political candidate perceives his role. The great statesmen of the past saw themselves as heroes who took on the burden of their societies' painful journey from the familiar to the as yet unknown. The modern politician is less interested in being a hero than a superstar. Heroes walk alone; stars derive their status from approbation. Heroes are defined by inner values, stars by consensus. When a candidate's views are forged in focus groups and ratified by television anchorpersons, insecurity and superficiality become congenital." -Henry Kissinger, *Years of Renewal*



Lincoln was very frank on his limitations.

"Neither party expected for the (Civil) war, the magnitude or duration which it has already attained... Each looked for triumph and a result less fundamental and astounding."  
-Abraham Lincoln on the Civil War



With someone like Lincoln at those times in our history, we believe God allowed certain people to come in with principles like Lincoln. Principles of righteousness *should* always reign in human government but don't always.

Proverbs 29:2: (NASB) *When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan.*

Righteousness is something we want to look for in a leader.

 **Who would Jesus vote for, CNN (Spring 2012)**

- (Reporter) *Why has Jesus been so prominent in this election season?*
- *I think there are an awful lot of evangelicals and others who would certainly say that they ascribe to the teachings of Jesus Christ and quite naturally candidates want to court that particular voting block.*
- (Reporter) *So is this the kind of question (Who would Jesus vote for?) Christian conservatives should be asking themselves?*

1 Peter 2:13-17: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, <sup>14</sup>or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. <sup>15</sup>For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. <sup>16</sup>Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. <sup>17</sup>Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

Christianity is supposed to have great respect for the systems that rule over us.

So who *do* we think Jesus would vote for? Jesus faced a situation that might help us decide. When the Pharisees asked him if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, his answer was to render to Caesar what is Caesar's and render to God what is God's. He didn't call people to become part of a political revolution or to become just a mindless addition to the state. He called them to represent





Christian principles but to not forget there are certain things that belong to the state: Allegiance is permitted as long as it doesn't conflict with God's laws.

As a Christian, we have a dual perspective. The heavenly ideal is first, since it coincides with what God would have us to do. The earthly ideal is second where it does not conflict with the first. Jesus told Caesar that his kingdom was *not of this world, else would my soldiers fight*. Jesus was not a revolutionary in that way.

**Ephesians 5:11-14:** (NASB) <sup>11</sup>*Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;* <sup>12</sup>*for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.* <sup>13</sup>*But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.* <sup>14</sup>*For this reason it says, Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

But we could expose the deeds of darkness by participating in the political process, right? We certainly could, but we likely won't be able to change it. You may be forced to participate in an activity that doesn't follow Christian principles. All of these Scriptures are addressed to you personally. Jesus always brought it back to the individual level. We can't impose our standards on others but at least need to understand why we take the stand that we do, and it should be based on Scripture.

Let's touch on another form of man-made government:

An infographic titled "Aristocracies: A few elite citizens ('the best') rule". It features a decorative border with white floral patterns on a dark background. The text is in various fonts, including a gold-colored serif for the title and a black cursive for the main text. On the left side, there is an oval portrait of a woman in 18th-century attire.

**Aristocracies:**  
*A few elite citizens ("the best") rule*

*Found in ancient Greece and Rome and in England and France in 16th and 17th centuries.*  
*Birthright gave the right to rule rather than merit.*  
*The French Revolution overthrew most of the last aristocrats.*





## Even in the context of a God-sanctioned arrangement, men can still mess up the responsibility of governing:

Deuteronomy 1:26-27: (NASB) <sup>26</sup>Yet you were not willing to go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God; <sup>27</sup>and you grumbled in your tents and said, Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us.

You can have a perfect government but with corrupt men! We need to focus on what our role is and how we can individually best carry out our role as a Christian? That was Jesus' focus on the matter.

### How much of leadership should be faith-based?

Proverbs 21:30: (NASB) *There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the LORD.*

Without God, nothing is going to stand forever.

## The following is a God-sanctioned system put in place for Israel to govern themselves:

Exodus 18:17-23: (NASB) <sup>17</sup>Moses' father-in-law said to him, The thing that you are doing is not good. <sup>18</sup>You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. <sup>19</sup>Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, <sup>20</sup>then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. <sup>21</sup>Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. <sup>22</sup>Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. <sup>23</sup>If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace.

This was a great method to handle the millions of people in the Exodus. Seventy judges handled the disputes but with God as their king. They weren't elected; Moses was able to choose them based on them being men of truth and not seeking dishonest gain. Our political process is extremely different. This gives us a sense of the great depth of integrity we want in our leadership.

### Political or spiritual transformation, Jesus voting, CNN (Spring 2012)

- *Who would Jesus vote for? But what was Jesus' ultimate agenda? Was it the political transformation of society or was it a spiritual transformation?*

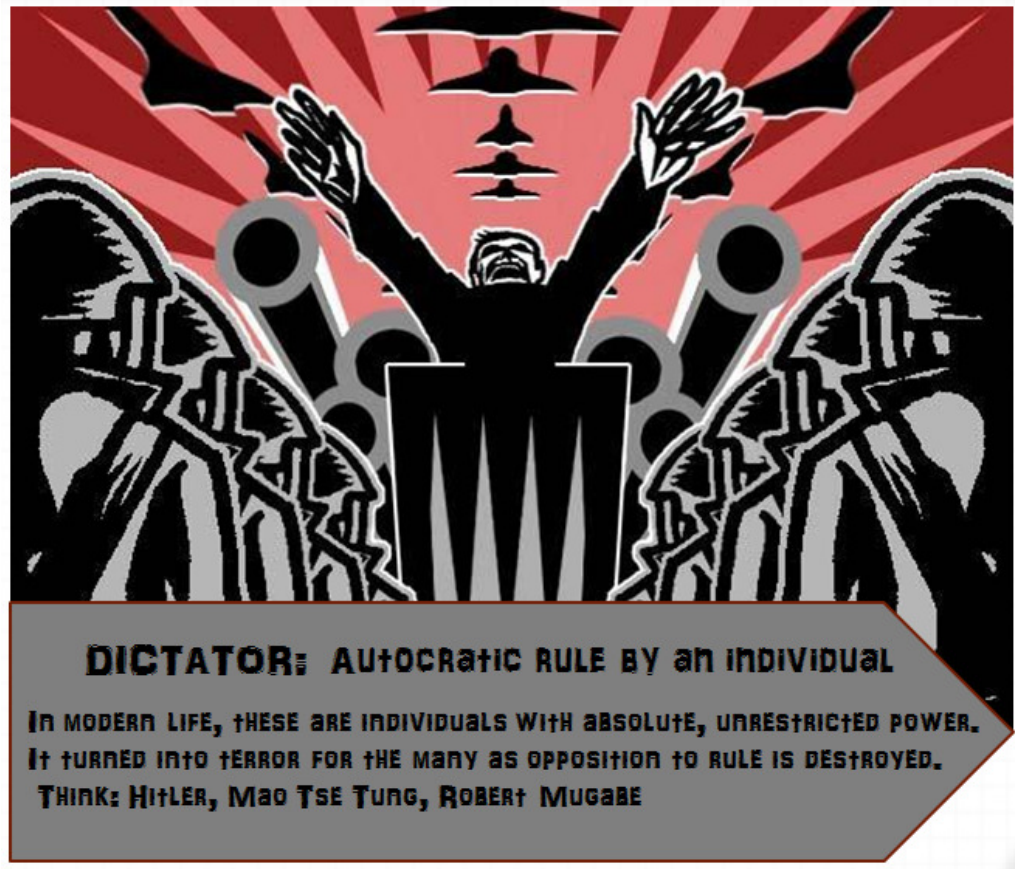
We never see Jesus telling people their job was to overthrow or change the government. It was on an individual, spiritual level. He called disciples who would be willing to follow after him and endure what he endured. Jesus was not political in anything that he did. That is a really strong statement to consider.

Philippians 4:6-7: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Here is a clear message on how to deal with the political turmoil around us. Ultimately, God is in control.



Let's touch on another form of man-made government:



Ideally, think what would happen if we had a real benevolent dictator - one who is motivated purely out of love, care and concern for people? This would be like what the people had with Moses and God, but the challenge is, is there such a person? Unfortunately not. Dictatorship only brings sickness, sorrow and death. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

1 Corinthians 10:31-33: (NASB) <sup>31</sup>Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup>Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; <sup>33</sup>just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.

None of us is capable of always doing this all the time. When we look to participate in the political process, are we doing so to the glory of God? That should be our focus in everything that we do.



Let's touch on one last form of man-made government:



We have found great flaws with all of these types of governments. Democracy seems to have the best chance, but it is filled with social problems that bring people unhappiness. Over the long term, no system has secured permanent peace and prosperity. None have been able to rule for the benefit of all people where *each* individual benefits.

### Does God have an ultimate political plan for man?

**Isaiah 9:6,7:** *For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder...of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...to establish it with judgment and justice from henceforth, even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

God's plan is that at some point, Jesus will set up a kingdom that will address the issues in a fair and equitable way. Evil will be brought to justice and all mankind will be blessed. This prophecy in Isaiah has not yet been fulfilled, but once it is, there will be no end! Jesus, as a human being, did not accomplish this prophecy. The purpose of his work at the first advent was not to set up this kingdom at that time, but he did promise to return.

### The purpose of Jesus' return:

**Haggai 2:7:** *I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord Almighty.*

Jesus' first work with the world is to prepare for his kingdom on earth. Since at least World War 1, the world has been "shaking" as part of this process.



Jesus is actually in the process of getting ready to set up his government of peace.

Sometimes it is hard to see beyond our own difficult circumstances. God sees all history and the future. He allows things to happen but He doesn't change the end result because His plan will come true. Don't take anxious thought, because God's will *will* be done.

Psalm 72:8: *He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.*

This is a truly global perspective for all people, everywhere. God is concerned about everyone, including those seemingly left behind.

When will this happen? We cannot predict it, but we believe it is sometime in the not too distant future when God will render *all* current political systems irrelevant through direct intervention. He will establish His government through Jesus. That divine standard will bring prosperity in the sense of life for all.

Psalm 22:27-28: *All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the nations.*

This is a statement that tells us there will be true accountability for actions. Today many things remain hidden and go unpunished. God will deal with those because there will be true responsibility and accountability for every individual.

Proverbs 11:24: *The liberal soul (literally means: the person of blessing) shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.*

The person who blesses others will be made "fat," in other words, blessed themselves. The more we do for others, the more will be done for us.

2 Peter 3:13,14: *But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for these things, give diligence that ye may be found in peace, without spot and blameless in his sight.*

We are to stand as ambassadors for Christ and recognize that God is bringing in, at some point, a new world order with true equality established for all.

Let us make sure that we maintain our Christianity for what it is really for - individual development as a true follower of Christ. Jesus was not political. Now if you feel so inclined to be involved in the political process, wonderful. Keep that in perspective with your spirituality. Remember your spirituality first and foremost.

God does have a plan in which no human being is left behind.

**So who is God's candidate?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,  
Think about it...!**







**And now even more to think about...  
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**

An interesting summation of an article about the religious perspectives of President Obama and Governor Romney:

President Barack Obama and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney have opened up about their religious faith to an unlikely source: Cathedral Age, the quarterly magazine of the Washington National Cathedral.

The interviews mark a rare instance of Romney talking about Mormonism, while Obama discusses his Christian faith in detail, referencing favorite Christian writers and Bible verses.

The magazine, which has a circulation of 30,000, submitted identical questions in writing to the campaigns and printed the responses in full in the latest edition of its magazine.

The magazine's leadoff question to the candidates: "How does faith play a role in your life?"

Romney's response:

"Faith is integral to my life. I have served as a lay pastor in my church. I faithfully follow its precepts. I was taught in my home to honor God and love my neighbor. My father was committed to Martin Luther King Jr.'s cause of equality, and I saw my parents provide compassionate care to others, in personal ways to people nearby and in leading national volunteer movements. My faith is grounded in the conviction that a consequence of our common humanity is our responsibility to one another - to our fellow Americans foremost, but also to every child of God."

Obama's response:

"First and foremost, my Christian faith gives me a perspective and security that I don't think I would have otherwise: That I am loved. That, at the end of the day, God is in control - and my main responsibility is to love God with all of my heart, soul, and mind, and to love my neighbor as myself. Now, I don't always live up to that standard, but it is a standard I am always pursuing. My faith is also a great source of comfort to me. I've said before that my faith has grown as President. This office tends to make a person pray more; and as President Lincoln once said, "I have been driven to my knees many times by the overwhelming conviction that I had no place else to go. Finally, I try to make sure that my faith informs how I live my life. As a husband, as a father, and as president, my faith helps me to keep my eyes on the prize and focus on what is good and truly important."

The magazine asked each candidate whether he has a favorite passage of Scripture, prayer or other "words of wisdom."



Romney quoted the Gospel of Matthew: "For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me. ..."

Romney invoked the King James Version of the text, the official English translation of the Bible for Mormons.

Obama said his favorite Bible verses were Isaiah 40:31 and Psalm 46, which begins, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (New Revised Standard Version).

The president noted he read the verse at the 10th anniversary service for the 9/11 attacks.

Both Obama and Romney have faced questions and criticisms over their faith. The magazine asked how they respond to those who "question the sincerity of your faith and your Christianity."

Obama:

"... (T)here's not much I can do about it. I have a job to do as president, and that does not involve convincing folks that my faith in Jesus is legitimate and real. I do my best to live out my faith, and to stay in the Word, and to make my life look more like His. I'm not perfect. What I can do is just keep on following Him, and serve others - trying to make folks' lives a little better using this humbling position that I hold."

Romney:

"I am often asked about my faith and my beliefs about Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of mankind. Every religion has its own unique doctrines and history. These should not be the basis for criticism but rather a test of our tolerance. Religious tolerance would be a shallow principle indeed if it were reserved only for faiths with which we agree."

Romney never mentions his Mormon faith by name in his responses but does note that he was once a lay pastor.

### Now, a few texts regarding the election...of the True Church!

2 Peter 1:2-11: (KJV) <sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: <sup>4</sup>Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. <sup>5</sup>And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; <sup>6</sup>And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; <sup>7</sup>And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. <sup>8</sup>For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. <sup>10</sup>Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and **election <1589>** sure: for if ye do these



things, ye shall never fall: <sup>11</sup>For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:12: Put on therefore, as the **elect <1588>** of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Note the “presidential” qualifications of the elect are mercies, kindness, etc., not combativeness, aggressiveness, intimidation.

Romans 12:1-3: (KJV) <sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And be **not conformed** to this world: but be ye **transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. <sup>3</sup>For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3: (ASV) <sup>1</sup>If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5: (NKJV) <sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup>remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, <sup>4</sup>knowing, beloved brethren, your **election <1589>** by God. <sup>5</sup>For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

2 Timothy 2:10-12: (ASV) <sup>10</sup>Therefore I endure all things for the **elect's <1588>** sake, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup>Faithful is the saying: For if we died with him, we shall also live with him: <sup>12</sup>if we endure, we shall also reign with him: if we shall deny him, he also will deny us: