

2010 Election Preparation Sermon

By Doug Hamilton

It is that time of year again that the people of this country are facing another election. There are so many candidates for so many positions to be decided upon. You might have noticed all the lawn signs saying “Vote for Somebody” and countless commercials of politicians trying to define each other. It comes to a point where a person can be worn out by voting day. With that in mind, I want to discuss in detail two particular opposing candidates and hopefully assist you in making the right decision. I will use the Bible to examine both in the following guidelines:

- You need to know what these candidates stand for.
- You need to know what experience they bring to the table.
- You need to know what their promises and convictions are.
- You need to know if they are going to be able to keep those promises.
- You need to know in advance if they are going to make you regret your decision.

This morning’s lesson is titled the “2010 Election Preparation Sermon”. Hopefully by the end of the lesson you will understand your role in the election this year and every year hereafter. You will most definitely see bias in my presentation towards one of the candidates. In fact I am going to clearly ask that you give your vote to one of the specific candidates.

Elect: It means to choose or select by vote something or someone. When we are asked to participate in an election, we are being asked to make a choice among at least two different options. This is what God did concerning our future for eternity.

God voted for us.

- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 (KJV) We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; ³ Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; ⁴ Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

God had to make a decision that we either die in our sins or be saved from them. That decision that He made was called the “Election of God”, hence making us the “Elect of God”. God chose us with His vote!

- 2 Peter 1:10-11 (NIV) Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure....”

This is the reason that we are to live a Godly life unto the Father, for He proved His love by casting His vote for us!

- Colossians 3:12-13 (KJV) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

God had a decision to make for our salvation and it cost Him His only begotten Son, but whosoever believeth in Him will not perish but have eternal life. We are the ELECT of God, not

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through the pulling of a lever in a voting booth, but through the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ. *Romans 5:8-9 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* ⁹ *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.* In this way we are the ELECT of God. With that as the setting of this morning's sermon, let us introduce the candidates.

- Romans 8:33-34 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

The first Candidate for the election that we are participating in is Jesus Christ. The opposing candidate to Him is the one that condemns, the devil. Jesus is the Intercessor on our behalf and the devil is the "accuser of the brethren" (Rev 12:10). We face a decision every day, every hour and every minute concerning whom we vote as our Lord. Jesus and the devil are the two candidates from which we must make a decision on a continual basis.

We make that initial vote for Jesus when we go down into the waters of baptism, dying to ourselves and living to God. We believed that Jesus was dead, buried and resurrected; we were convinced that we are facing our future death, burial and resurrection; we were convicted that we would live a life of death, burial and resurrection unto God. If that is what we believe at baptism (Mark 16:15-16), then we voted for Jesus Christ to be Lord in our life. That is why we went into that voting booth called the baptismal, the creek, the lake, the river or whatever water you used to fulfill the blessed command to cast your vote for Jesus.

- Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit..."
- Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
- Colossians 2:12 "...having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."

When you came up out of the waters of baptism, it was the first time that you ever voted in your young life. From there and with the hope of eternal life within us, the decisions continued. Because God chose us and we in return chose Him, this puts us in a strenuous position concerning the world. We struggle with going back to the world of sin of which we escaped through Christ. *Romans 7:19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.* It is hard being a Christian, but it must be carried out.

To paraphrase 1 Corinthians 15:31 "...in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die {VOTE} daily." We will struggle the rest of our lives to walk the straight and narrow path to salvation, but it can and must be done. Jesus said in *Luke 9:23 "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."* That struggle that we have between right and wrong can easily be understood in the context of the election and our resolve to VOTE FOR JESUS daily!

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I hope this perspective of the Christian walk will help us understand to a deeper degree the struggle and responsibility that is before us. Let us examine the two candidates in more detail and through the election process.

Putting the Word Out

One of the methods that the politicians communicate their message is through television commercials. One cannot watch the local television channels without finding some of these television ads blaring in your face. They actually at times border on obnoxious.

Sample Television Commercial #1

In times like these, it is important to know there is a trusted friend at the center of your life. That friend is not the Devil.

- Satan hates the children of God: *Revelation 12:17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*
- Satan wants to destroy you: *1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
- Satan wants to trap you in sin: *Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.*
- Satan wants you to be deceived: *2 Corinthians 11:14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*
- Satan is nothing more than a liar: *John 8:44 "...He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

Do you really want to spend an eternity with someone like that?

Sample Television Commercial #2

Jesus: Change you really can believe in!

- He really does feel your pain: *Hebrews 2:18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.*
- He really can make a difference in the lives of the people: *Luke 4:18-19 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."*
- He is in 100% agreement with the Father: *John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."* Hebrews 1:3 states that He is the "exact representation of His nature".
- He has the experience that will pull us through the tough times: *1 Peter 2:23 "...and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously..."*

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- He offers quality deliverance from the world: *Matthew 11:28-30* “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”²⁹ “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.”³⁰ “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

- He really loves you!

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give, light and love to all who live.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Vote Yes for Jesus Christ as Lord!

-I am a Christian and proclaim this message.

Debates:

This is another one of the arrangements that the candidates of the political world engage in. It is where they can demonstrate their ability to be a good thinker. This is similar to the debate between Jesus and the devil in Matthew 4:1-11.

The Christ / Satan Debate

Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.² And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.³ And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”⁴ But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”⁵ Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,⁶ and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’; and ‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’”⁷ Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’”⁸ Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;⁹ and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”¹¹ Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

- With the craftiness of a Philadelphia lawyer, the Devil tried to tempt Jesus into sin, but the Christ would not fall for it.

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- All three times Jesus used the Holy Scriptures of God to rebut the attempts of the devil and all three times He was successful against the crafty one.
- Jesus demonstrated to us in that passage that He is worthy of our vote day in and day out. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. The devil had nowhere to go, but flee.
- 1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

The Polls

Now more than ever the politicians are constantly polling the people to see where they stand. They are trying to see what the outcome of the election will be.

Biblical Poll

What is the outcome of the election of Christ? Biblical polling indicates that Christ will win hands down!

- 1 John 3:8 ...The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.
- Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
- Hebrews 2:14-15 "...that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil..."
- Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

All the polling information that is coming back does not bode well for the devil. In fact it is a slaughter. With that in mind we are left with a decision. Who are you going to vote for today, Jesus or the Devil?

- Ephesians 4:27 "...do not give the devil an opportunity." VOTE FOR JESUS!
- James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. VOTE FOR JESUS!
- 2 Timothy 2:26 "...*escape* from the snare of the devil..." by casting your vote for Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior!

Pull the lever for Jesus today and every day from here on out.