Presidents & Elections

The first president I have any recollections of is Dwight D. Eisenhower. He was the current President when we immigrated to this country in 1955.

I was in the third grade when John F. Kennedy was elected. Even at that age I remember the hysteria that ran through the Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with several other Protestant Denominations, at the thought of a Catholic President. We were all sure he would usher in the time of trouble and that Jesus’ coming was imminent.

I remember the day he was assassinated. I was in the sixth grade. Soon after the news broke, we were sent home from school. He was mourned by most people in the country, even by most of those who had been panicked by his election.

Since that time, we have been through 14 elections, some of them pretty ugly, and others not quite so bad.

A message that seems to have run through most of them is the ugly falsehood that we will be doomed if the other candidate is elected. Whoever the opponent is, it has been argued on a regular basis that he or she will pretty much destroy our country and us along with it.

Even as Christians, we get caught up in this line of thinking. And often it seems even we give in to the hateful rhetoric, the character assignations, and the hysteria of uncertainty. Listening to many of us speak, it almost feels like our country has gotten beyond even God’s control, so we could be in real trouble if we don’t make the right choice.

I ran across this message by Andy Stanley a few days back. It says much of what I have been thinking. At first I thought I might try to use his words, but I would not have said them as effectively as he did – so I decided to show you the video clip from a recent sermon he gave. (Click here to view the video.)

So how do we balance our responsibilities and privileges as a citizen of the United States with the fact that we have a higher allegiance to God and our real destiny is not a better America for a few years, but a perfect eternity?

Follow our Leader

We begin by remember who our real leader is. It is not Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton, or any other national figure. It is not our boss, our friend, or even the Pastor.

Our leader is Jesus!
... Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith ... (Hebrews 12:1-2, NLT)

Jesus is the one we need to focus on.

I don’t want to become like either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton – so I don’t want to get fixated on them and their relative strengths and faults.

I want to become like Jesus – He’s the One worthy of our focus!

He’s the One – the only One – who can make a lasting difference anywhere; now and in our communities and for eternity!

Love

Not only do we need to focus on Jesus, we need to follow Him as our Leader. We need to order our lives by His principles.

In broad terms, Jesus defined this as loving God and loving people. He said:

“The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31, NLR – quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5 & Leviticus 19:18)

He made it clear that anyone we come across that needs our help is our neighbor through the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). And He let us know how far we should be willing to go in order to help someone when He said:

“Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other ...”

He sacrificed Himself – gave up His life – for you, and for me. He set the bar pretty high!

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” (John 13:34-35, NLT)

He further simplified it in what we call the Golden Rule when He said:

“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you ...” (Matthew 7:12, NLT)

I have read Jesus’ words in the Gospels many times, and I have never seen an exception to this. He doesn’t say:
Election Reflections

- If someone irritates you, you don’t need to follow this
- If there is an election and someone disagrees with you on what you feel is the main point, you can disregard this for a few months
- If someone is acting stupid (in your opinion), you get a pass on this.

This is to be a guide to ALL our words and actions – no exceptions.

“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12, NLT)

According to Jesus, this is the essence of being one of His followers. This is what being a Christian looks like.

What Now?

As we complete this election cycle and move onward towards whoever is elected, there is no need for us to panic – God is bigger than any of the shenanigans happening in our political system. In Proverbs, it says:

*The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases.*

(Proverbs 21:1, NLT)

Through the prophet Isaiah, God said:

“Our never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:28-31, NLT)

A few chapters later, Isaiah quotes God as saying:

“I am the First and the Last; there is no other God. Who is like me? Let him step forward and prove to you his power. Let him do as I have done since ancient times when I established a people and explained its future. Do not tremble; do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim my purposes for you long ago? You are my witnesses – is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock – not one!” (Isaiah 44:6-8, NLT)

Let’s not panic and act like God is not in control. Let’s trust His wisdom and strength.
And, let’s represent Him well in all our discussion and communications regarding this election. Let’s not give anyone a reason to question whether we love and follow God.

Let’s treat each other with love, compassion, integrity, and respect – regardless of what they believe is best for our country.

In the book of Revelation, we read:

> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

> I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”  

(Revelation 21:1-4, NLT)

This is where I want to be. Being with Jesus for eternity is my primary focus.

I want to do my part as a citizen of this country, a place that has been good to me and my family. I want to help those around me however God wants me to. But, being with Jesus for eternity is where I want to be. Don’t you?

Let’s treat each other with the same thoughtfulness we like to experience.

Let’s be sure we keep our focus in the right place and let God continue to be God!

Note: Most everything you find in this color is a hyperlink that will lead you to more complete references, different translations, or pertinent websites.
Scripture References

Psalm 1 (the Voice): God’s blessings follow you and await you at every turn: when you don’t follow the advice of those who delight in wicked schemes, when you avoid sin’s highway, when judgment and sarcasm beckon you, but you refuse. 2 For you, the Eternal’s Word is your happiness. It is your focus – from dusk to dawn. 3 You are like a tree, planted by flowing, cool streams of water that never run dry. Your fruit ripens in its time; your leaves never fade or curl in the summer sun. No matter what you do, you prosper.

4 For those who focus on sin, the story is different. They are like the fallen husk of wheat, tossed by an open wind, left deserted and alone. 5 In the end, the wicked will fall in judgment; the guilty will be separated from the innocent. 6 Their road suddenly will end in death, yet the journey of the righteous has been charted by the Eternal. (Psalm 1, the Voice)

Psalm 9:7-10 (NLT): But the L ORD reigns forever, executing judgment from his throne. 8 He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness. 9 The L ORD is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. 10 Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O L ORD, do not abandon those who search for you. (Psalm 9:7-10, NLT)

Psalm 22:27-28 (NLT): The whole earth will acknowledge the L ORD and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him. 28 For royal power belongs to the L ORD. He rules all the nations. (Psalm 22:27-28, NLT)

Psalm 50: 9-12 (NLT): But I do not need the bulls from your barns or the goats from your pens. 10 For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are mine. 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for all the world is mine and everything in it. (Psalm 50:9-12, NLT)

Psalm 121 (NLT): I look up to the mountains – does my help come from there? 2 My help comes from the L ORD, who made heaven and earth!

3 He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. 4 Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.

5 The L ORD himself watches over you! The L ORD stands beside you as your protective shade. 6 The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night.

7 The L ORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. 8 The L ORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever. (Psalm 121, NLT)
Psalm 146:5-10 (NLT): But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the L ORD their God. 6 He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. 7 He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The L ORD frees the prisoners. 8 The L ORD opens the eyes of the blind. The L ORD lifts up those who are weighed down. The L ORD loves the godly. 9 The L ORD protects the foreigners among us. He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked. 10 The L ORD will reign forever. He will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations.

Praise the L ORD! (Psalm 146:5-10, NLT)

Proverbs 21:1 (NLT): The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the L ORD; he guides it wherever he pleases. (Proverbs 21:1, NLT)

Lamentations 3:21-23 (NLT): Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: 22 The faithful love of the L ORD never ends! His mercies never cease. 23 Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. (Lamentations 3:21-23, NLT):

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NLT): Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The L ORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. 29 He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. 30 Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. 31 But those who trust in the L ORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31, NLT)

Isaiah 44:2-8 (NLT): The L ORD who made you and helps you says: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, O dear Israel, my chosen one. 3 For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your children. 4 They will thrive like watered grass, like willows on a riverbank. 5 Some will proudly claim, ‘I belong to the L ORD.’ Others will say, ‘I am a descendant of Jacob.’ Some will write the L ORD’s name on their hands and will take the name of Israel as their own.”

6 This is what the L ORD says – Israel’s King and Redeemer, the L ORD of Heaven’s Armies:

“I am the First and the Last; there is no other God. 7 Who is like me? Let him step forward and prove to you his power. Let him do as I have done since ancient times when I established a people and explained its future. 8 Do not tremble; do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim my purposes for you long ago? You are my witnesses – is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock – not one!” (Isaiah 44:2-8, NLT)
Matthew 7:7-12 (NLT): “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 “You parents – If your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! 11 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

12 “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:7-12, NLT)

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT): Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20, NLT)

Mark 12:28-31 (NLT): One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. 30 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ 31 The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31, NLT – quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5 & Leviticus 19:18)

John 10:1-18 (NLT): “I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! 2 But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. 5 They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”

6 Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn’t understand what he meant, 7 so he explained it to them: “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. 9 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.”
The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.” (John 10:1-18, NLT)

John 13:33-35 (NLT): “Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can’t come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” (John 13:33-35, NLT)

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (the Voice): There’s a slogan often quoted on matters like this: “All things are permitted.” Yes, but not all things are beneficial. “All things are permitted,” they say. Yes, but not all things build up and strengthen others in the body. We should stop looking out for our own interests and instead focus on the people living and breathing around us. (1 Corinthians 10:23-24, the Voice)

Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT): I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (Philippians 3:12-14, NLT)

Colossians 3:1-4 (the Voice): So it comes down to this: since you have been raised with the Anointed One, the Liberating King, set your mind on heaven above. The Anointed is there, seated at God’s right hand. Stay focused on what’s above, not on earthly things, because your old life is dead
and gone. Your new life is now hidden, enmeshed with the Anointed who is in God. On that day when the Anointed One – who is our very life – is revealed, you will be revealed with Him in glory! (Colossians 3:1-4, the Voice)

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT): Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up. (Hebrews 12:1-3, NLT)

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NIV): Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” (Hebrews 13:5-6, NIV – quoting Deuteronomy 31:6 & Psalm 118:6-7)

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV): Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21, NIV)

1 John 3:1-3 (the Voice): Consider the kind of extravagant love the Father has lavished on us – He calls us children of God! It’s true; we are His beloved children. And in the same way the world didn’t recognize Him, the world does not recognize us either.

When we feel like we are not good enough to be loved by God, we should remember that God’s love is greater than our doubts. We must silence the sounds of condemnation so we can hear the voice of God’s loving assurance and remember that He has selected us to be part of His family.

Revelation 21:1-4 (NLT): Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.
3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” (Revelation 21:1-4, NLT)

E.G. White Writings

Desire of Ages, pages 36-38: The deception of sin had reached its height. All the agencies for depraving the souls of men had been put in operation. The Son of God, looking upon the world, beheld suffering and misery. With pity He saw how men had become victims of satanic cruelty. He looked with compassion upon those who were being corrupted, murdered, and lost. They had chosen a ruler who chained them to his car as captives. Bewildered and deceived, they were moving on in gloomy procession toward eternal ruin – to death in which is no hope of life, toward night to which comes no morning. Satanic agencies were incorporated with men. The bodies of human beings, made for the dwelling place of God, had become the habitation of demons. The senses, the nerves, the passions, the organs of men, were worked by supernatural agencies in the indulgence of the vilest lust. The very stamp of demons was impressed upon the countenances of men. Human faces reflected the expression of the legions of evil with which they were possessed. Such was the prospect upon which the world’s Redeemer looked. What a spectacle for Infinite Purity to behold! Sin had become a science, and vice was consecrated as a part of religion. Rebellion had struck its roots deep into the heart, and the hostility of man was most violent against heaven. It was demonstrated before the universe that, apart from God, humanity could not be uplifted. A new element of life and power must be imparted by Him who made the world.

With intense interest the unfallen worlds had watched to see Jehovah arise, and sweep away the inhabitants of the earth. And if God should do this, Satan was ready to carry out his plan for securing to himself the allegiance of heavenly beings. He had declared that the principles of God’s government make forgiveness impossible. Had the world been destroyed, he would have claimed that his accusations were proved true. He was ready to cast blame upon God, and to spread his rebellion to the worlds above. But instead of destroying the world, God sent His Son to save it. Though corruption and defiance might be seen in every part of the alien province, a way for its recovery was provided. At the very crisis, when Satan seemed about to triumph, the Son of God came with the embassage of divine grace. Through every age, through every hour, the love of God had been exercised toward the fallen race. Notwithstanding the perversity of men, the signals of mercy had been continually exhibited. And when the fullness of the time had come, the Deity was glorified by pouring upon the world a flood of healing grace that was never to be obstructed or withdrawn till the plan of salvation should be fulfilled.
Satan was exulting that he had succeeded in debasing the image of God in humanity. Then Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker. None but Christ can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin. He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will. He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the marred character after the pattern of His divine character, and to make it beautiful with His own glory. (Desire of Ages, pages 36-38)

Desire of Ages, pages 677-680: In this last meeting with His disciples, the great desire which Christ expressed for them was that they might love one another as He had loved them. Again and again He spoke of this. "These things I command you," He said repeatedly, "that ye love one another." (John 15: 12 & 17) His very first injunction when alone with them in the upper chamber was, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 13:34-35) To the disciples this commandment was new; for they had to hope for everything. With the golden chain of His matchless love Christ has bound them to the throne of God. It is His purpose that the highest influence in the universe, emanating from the source of all power, shall be theirs. They are to have power (Page 680) to resist evil, power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master, power that will enable them to overcome as Christ overcame. (Desire of Ages, pages 677-680)

My Prediction for November 9

October 11, 2016; by Max Lucado

We are really ready for this presidential election to be over. We’re ready for an end to the rancor and tackiness. Voters on both sides feel frustrated, even embarrassed by it all. There is a visceral fear, an angst about the result. What if so and so wins? When we wake up to November 9, post-election, when the confetti is swept away and the election is finally over, what will we see?
I have a prediction. I know exactly what November 9 will bring. Another day of God’s perfect sovereignty. He will still be in charge. His throne will still be occupied. He will still manage the affairs of the world. Never before has His providence depended on a king, president, or ruler. And it won’t on November 9, 2016.

*The LORD can control a king’s mind as he controls a river; he can direct it as he pleases* (*Proverbs 21:1* NCV).

On one occasion the Lord turned the heart of the King of Assyria so that he aided them in the construction of the Temple (*Ezra 6:22*). On another occasion, he stirred the heart of Cyrus to release the Jews to return to Jerusalem (*Ezra 1:1*). Nebuchadnezzar was considered to be the mightiest king of his generation. But God humbled and put him in “detention” for seven years (*Daniel 4:28-34*).

*The kingdom is the Lord’s, and He rules over the nations* (*Psalms 22:28*, NJKV).

Understanding God’s sovereignty over the nations opens the door to peace. When we realize that God influences the hearts of all rulers, we can then choose to pray for them rather than fret about them. Rather than wring our hands we bend our knees, we select prayer over despair.

Jeremiah did this. He was the prophet to Israel during one of her darkest periods of rebellion. He was called “the weeping prophet” because he was one. He wept at the condition of the people and the depravity of their faith. He was so distraught that one of his books was entitled Lamentations. But then he considered the work of God. Note the intentionality of his words:

*This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The LORD’s loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness* (*Lamentations 3:21-23*, NKJV)

Imitate Jeremiah. Lift up your eyes. Dare to believe that good things will happen. Dare to believe that God was speaking to us when he said:

*In everything God works for the good of those who love him* (*Romans 8:28*).

Many years ago, I spent a week visiting the interior of Brazil with a long-time missionary pilot. He flew a circuit of remote towns in a small plane that threatened to come undone at the slightest gust of wind. Wilbur and Orville had a sturdier aircraft. I could not get comfortable. I kept thinking that the plane was going to crash in some Brazilian jungle and I’d be gobbled up by piranhas or swallowed by an anaconda.
I kept shifting around, looking down, and gripping my seat. (As if that would help.) Finally, the pilot had had enough of my squirming. He looked at me and shouted over the airplane noise. “We won’t face anything I can’t handle. You might as well trust me to fly the plane.”

Is God saying the same to you? If so, make this your prayer:

*Dear Lord,*

*You are perfect. You could not be better than you are.*

*You are self-created. You exist because you choose to exist.*

*You are self-sustaining. No one helps you. No one gives you strength.*

*You are self-governing. Who can question your deeds? Who dares advise you? You are correct. In every way. In every choice. You regret no decision.*

*You have never failed. Never! You cannot fail! You are God! You will accomplish your plan.*

*You are happy. Eternally joyful. Endlessly content.*

*You are the king, supreme ruler, absolute monarch, overlord, and rajah of all history.*

*An arch of your eyebrow and a million angels will pivot and salute. Every throne is a footstool to yours. Every crown is papier-mâché to yours. No limitations, hesitations, questions, second thoughts, or backward glances. You consult no clock. You keep no calendar. You report to no one. You are in charge.*

*And I trust you.*

Circle November 9 on your calendar and write upon it the words: *Our good God rules the world!*

© Max Lucado, October 2016 – to read this on-line in its original form, click here.

**This Pastor has a Harsh Message about the Election that Every Millennial Needs to Hear**

Pastor Andy Stanley has a brutal message for the over 45 Trump or Hillary loving crowd who seem to be “growing weary” in the midst of this year’s election,

“*Knock it off! You’re scaring the children*” the pastor jokingly began. “*The generation that’s coming along behind us are going to take their cue from us.*”
According to Stanley, that isn’t necessarily a good thing, especially with how people are acting amidst the disastrous presidential race

“Here’s the cue we’re giving them:

‘Oh my goodness, if we don’t get the right person elected in office it’s the end of the world. If we don’t fix the economy it’s the end of the world. If we don’t have religious freedom like my momma, or my grandma had religious freedom... If we don’t have the right policies it’s all coming unraveled.’

“Nothing could be further from the truth!”

Pastor Stanley believes that while government and policies do play a significant role in our lives, nothing matters more than one thing: faith.

Stanley goes on to explain that those who truly have faith understand that faith means having “confidence that God keeps his promises, and that nothing can thwart the plans of God.” That means no matter what, you know that God is in control, and yet for some reason so many of us walk around in fear. Why is this? Perhaps, for many of us, our eyes have been taken off of God, and are fixed elsewhere.

“We have nothing to fear, so all you people over 45, knock it off! You need to model for the next generation that God is in control, God can be trusted!”

Sure, it sounds nice to say “God’s got this,” but politicians treat a political losses like the end of the world. Think about it, how many times have you heard “so-and-so will be the destruction of America”? People would have you think Trump, or Clinton are the anti-Christ (depending on who you ask), but that sounds a lot more like fear, than trusting in an all-mighty and powerful God.

Pastor Stanley then turns his attention to those under 45, more specifically those who identify as millennials, and pleads with them to not give up, or “grow weary” amidst the turmoil going on throughout the world.

“Don’t fix your eyes on social media. Don’t fix your eyes on D.C. And don’t fix your eyes on my generation ...

“Do not grow weary, and do not lose heart, because once upon a time a group of people your age embraced a resurrected savior, and embraced the teachings of a resurrected savior... people your age changed the world!”
The key element throughout the sermon was “faith,” and for good reason. In a time where so many people are putting their faith in politicians, and other things of this world, this message is a wonderful reminder that God’s plan will go on no matter what.

We were not called to live in fear. Instead, Christ paid the ultimate price so that we would never have to fear, because He is in charge. SHARE this message, and let’s remember to put our faith in the Lord, above all!

To read the original article online, click here.