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Politicians, Judges, and Jesus, Our Coming King

By Steven J. Hogan

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For those of us in the United States, it's obvious that we are living in a super-charged political climate. When you watch the news on TV or on the internet, you cannot miss what's going on – this hot, hyped-up and turbulent atmosphere. There's the President, Congressmen and women, Judges, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, the media, and who's right? In the upcoming elections, who's going to win? People get so emotional and passionate about all this, and for many, it's because politics is their religion. But for Christians, what does our *"religion"*, what does our Bible say? *"Do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."* Ephesians 5:15-17

First, let me share a little bit of my story, for it has greatly affected how I think about politics, prophecy and God's will for my life. In August of

1976, I was attending a church conference in Kansas City, and for part of the time, we marched around Kemper Arena, carrying signs and promoting a Presidential candidate. In 1980, our association of churches was in New York City during the Democratic National Convention, encouraging everyone to *"Vote Morality."* Three months later, on the Sunday morning before the national election, my church passed out 40,000 flyers supporting a senatorial candidate. Five years later, our association of churches started *"Americans for Biblical Government,"* for some believed that the Bible, not the Constitution, was the book delineating the laws by which we were to govern this country. You can clearly see that I was involved with churches that felt strongly about trying to influence the course of this country.

Those were the *"Moral Majority"* years, which for many churches meant persuading people to be moral, for we thought if we had a moral majority, we could win elections, and change the country. This thinking was partially based on Amillennialism, a belief which states that there's no future millennial kingdom, no 1000-year period when Christ is ruling the world. This erroneous belief says that Christ will return after the Christians, during this church age, have made this world to be a more loving and just world.

As time went on, I learned that my thinking with regard to these areas was wrong. The problem was not the President, the government or the culture, but the sin in a person's heart. Yes, my church understood the problem of sin, and the solution to be the gospel of Christ, but we had gotten way off track. When Jesus was on earth, He could have easily routed the Romans and began ruling the world. But He didn't do that, for that was not His purpose at that time. God's will and vision, then and now, is to build the church, to preach the gospel and make disciples of all the nations. Matthew 16:18, 24:14, 28:19-20

As Christians, this is our purpose – to build the church. We are not to seek the kingdoms of men, but the kingdom of God, a kingdom that is now seen in the church and is spiritual in nature (Matthew 6:10, 33). We

are to pray for the souls of men, not for seats in Congress. We are to put our hope and trust in God, not in rulers (Psalm 146:3-6). Even if we elected a Christian president, and passed many new laws, it wouldn't make a difference. It's not new laws we need, but new hearts, not new political leaders but godly preachers.

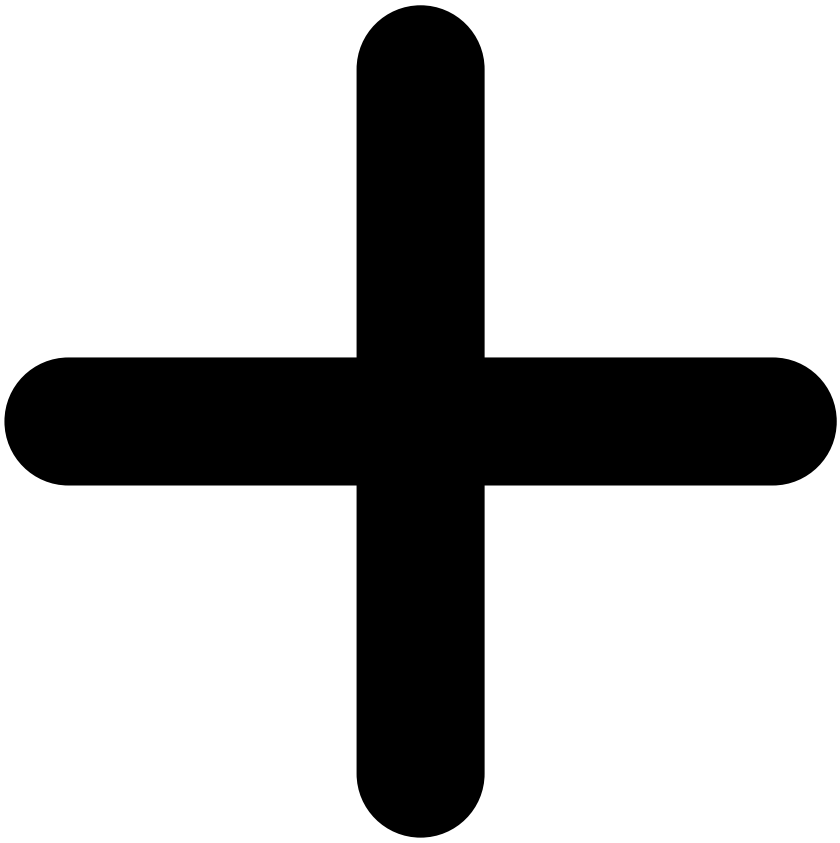
Our country is on the downgrade, for she's not so moral anymore, but she's becoming more immoral. There's pride, greed, hate, anger, selfishness, injustice and disrespect. There are corrupt politicians and corrupt people. In fact, the entire world is increasingly becoming lawless. But as Christians, we must stay the course that Christ gave us, to build the church, preach the gospel, and make disciples of all the nations. The Jews are now back in their land, Jerusalem is her capitol, a peace treaty will soon be signed, and Christ's return and the rapture of the church, and the salvation of a remnant of Jews, is at hand. Now is the time to remember that it's more important to win souls than to win elections, and to raise up pastors than to raise up politicians. Luke 12:32-53

What about your role in politics? It's alright to be involved, but it shouldn't be your top priority, and you shouldn't get mad if a bad law is passed, or an unrighteous person wins an election. Yes, you should vote. Yes, you should pray for your leaders. Yes, you can help in some election. In fact, I still write letters to the Senator our church helped elect in 1980, for he is a Christian, and I want to encourage him to keep doing what is right.

Here we are, living in the end times and in a country that's going downhill. There are two things you need to do. First, do your part, use your gifts, and serve the Lord, right up to the return of Christ. Second, remember the hope you have from God. *"Evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land"* (Psalm 37:9). Abraham *"was looking for the city with foundations"* (Hebrews 11:10). You should be super-excited about that future time when Jesus Christ, the perfect King, will rule this imperfect world with a heart of gold and a

rod of iron. Then there will be perfect justice, abounding love, great glory, and world peace! *“Clap your hands, all you **nations**… God reigns over the **nations**”* (Psalm 47:1, 8). *“… Your salvation among all **nations**… Let the **nations** be glad and sing for joy… You will guide the **nations** of the earth.”* Psalm 67:1-4

P.S. In the midst of all this political passion, we need to be reminded of our real purpose, and with that, I encourage you to read the article, “What Does God Want Me to Do in the End Times?” I mentioned in this article why A-millennialism is not true. To understand why, I would suggest you start with “Replacement Theology: It’s Not True – Part One,” the first of five articles on this subject.



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