

## ***Jesus' Brother Said...***

James, the author of the book of James, was the actual brother of Jesus. I love that book because it is so practical. James is often considered as the Proverbs of the New Testament. Christianity, at its very core, must be a precious blend of the spiritual and the physical – the pious and the practical.

The Holy Spirit inspired James to write much like Solomon, blending biblical belief with daily doings. As Christians live life on earth, we must remember that we live in the shade of our future home in heaven. As we ponder that realization, we will recognize that there are many times and opportunities to walk in the footsteps of Jesus (1 Peter 2:21).

One of those opportunities is to help decide the direction of our nation. Unlike the monarchical systems of old, our citizens help make national decisions. Just as Solomon prayed for wisdom to lead his nation, (1 Kings 3:1-15) so we should pray for wisdom to make decisions that will be vitally important to our nation.

People sometimes ask me how I plan to vote. I strive to answer that question with biblical truths and not political platitudes. My main answer is quite simple: Find out which party or person believes in abortion and same sex marriage and vote for other one!

As I exercise my the rights God has allowed us here in America, two verses come to my mind.

- James 4:17, “ Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
- Psalm 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.”  
(Yes, this verse is about the sons of Abraham, but the principle is the same. Without God, we, like Old Testament Israel, will most certainly lose God’s blessings.)

Think, pray and realize that like the kings of old, we, in this nation, have the honor and the responsibility of guiding our nation to be closer to Him. You know the right thing to do, so do the right thing!

-Ray Wallace