

## ***We Are a Bit Different***

As Christians, we are certainly different from the world - we all know that. But we are not very different from Christians in the first century. We are saved by the blood of Jesus, we are despised by *some* in the world (the darkness hates the light John 3:19-21) and we have peace that surpasses all comprehension of those who don't have it (Philippians 4:4-13).

But in one way we are very different. In the first century, in most of the Mediterranean countries, all people were under the thumb of the Roman Empire. They had been conquered, militarily, and were subjects of the whims of the emperor. They had no say in governmental affairs.

In America today, we are greatly blessed by God to live in the nation where all citizens, including Christians, are actually the sovereign. *We the people*, are the final word, the kings in command, the final arbiter of the entire government. (Yes, I know some want to change that, but so far it is still in effect.) *We the people* decide who rules, by vote and appointment of those we elected. *We the people* gained the responsibility of this contract on June 21, 1788, when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the Constitution.

Ever since then, we became different. The principles that apply to government, *in the scriptures*, now, necessarily, apply to us... *we the people*, who control our nation. In essence and in law, *we the people* are now responsible to our nation and to God for the governing laws we create. As God held King David responsible for Uriah's death (not Joab), God holds responsible those who have the final power and authority. (See 2 Samuel 11-12 for that story).

Today, that sovereign authority is squarely in the hands of *we the people, as a group*. Certainly, we don't always get what we vote for, but the majority does. The majority may vote in people who go against God's word (and often do). But that does not negate every Christian's personal responsibility to do all they can to vote for people who will support what is good and right. This responsibility weighs heavily on me, personally, and we should all take it very seriously.

A dear personal friend once taught that *ability plus opportunity equals responsibility*. When we have an ability and also the opportunity, we have, thereby, responsibility. If I have the ability and the opportunity to save someone from a burning house, then I also have the responsibility. If I have been granted by God and our founding fathers the ability and the opportunity to shape our nation toward good and away from evil, then I also have the responsibility to do what I can to affect that outcome.

This Tuesday, Americans, including Christians, will make choices as the sovereigns of our nation. On every ballot will be choices between good and evil. Please, *please*, as in all other endeavors, make sure your choices are as godly as you know how. The choices of sovereigns make or break nations.

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