

Something to Pray About

October 2012 – Cindy Sears

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. —Romans 13:1 NKJV

Voting for Freedom

In November of 2012, we will elect a new leader for our nation and many other national, state, and local government representatives. Whoever is voted into any of these positions will set policies and encourage attitudes that will be reflected in our nation's culture and change the way we live. Some of these changes will be for the better; some will not. Some changes will hurt one set of people; while other groups or individuals will be better off. In the United States, we have the opportunity to help choose who will be in these influential positions. Though the system is not perfect, it is better than many other forms of government where the "little people" have no say at all in how the government is run.

We are told by Paul that government is ordained or appointed by God as a way to restrain evil (see Romans 13). Paul said this while living under an empire that actively persecuted and killed Christians. So, though no government is perfect, they are a necessary evil. As Christians, we are also called to be obedient and good citizens, as long as those governing us do not call for us to be disobedient to our true King and ultimate Ruler.

I have read that over 30 million evangelical Christians did not vote in the last presidential election. I constantly hear people saying that they do not like any of the candidates, so they will just sit this one out. Some people are opposed to voting for a non-Christian, so they decide not to vote at all. It would be wise of us to understand that we are not voting for a pastor, but for a *civil servant*. We vote for the one candidate who comes closest to the ideal; the closest to standing up for Godly principles. Just because there is no perfect candidate for a position, is no reason not to cast a vote.

In the past, Christians' silence has led to the restriction of prayer in the schools and other arenas, and to the legalization of infanticide (abortion). Since we are called to be the salt and light of God in the world, it is our duty to vote, to let our representatives know what we think about their policies, and to serve in government. If we can find a good Christian to vote for—wonderful; if we cannot, choose the best one available and pray that there will be better choices in the future. The added benefit of voting is that you then have the right to complain about how the government is being run.

This is a pivotal election for the followers of Christ in this nation. Many of our current leaders have been diligently working to restrict religious freedom and personal freedom in this country. They have been spending our children's future earnings and raiding funds set aside for our senior citizens to retire on. We need to vote. We need to write our representatives. Or, the next step will have to be civil disobedience, which as we know from history, can lead to financial loss and even loss of life. Christian charities and businesses are already on the verge of losing their ability to continue IF they refuse to compromise their beliefs (refer to HHS mandate information online and in the news).

So, go be the salt and the light in all areas of life, including the political arena. Vote and speak out against the evil and ineptitude you see in local, state, and national government. Then, let God take care of the outcome.