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Is God in the Election? By Vic Primeaux

Unless someone has been living in a cave (with no TV, radio or internet access) there is no way to miss the fact that we are ramping up to one of the most heated election seasons in modern history. This should be cause for faithful Christians to inquire of God, "What would you have me to do, my Lord?" Understandably, most of us have been searching in many places for help in making these important election decisions. A highly respected Christian leader teamed up with a well-known Christian author to help provide some timely advice and counsel. Some of their important research is distilled below:

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What side is God on? People have wanted to know that since the beginning of warfare. During the Civil War, people wondered which side God was on; in World War II, initially many pastors and their congregations were duped by Adolf Hitler. Journalist and historian William L. Shirer, author of "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," notes that some German "Christians" even drew up a resolution (which ultimately was not adopted) demanding "One People, One Reich, One Faith," and these same professing believers wanted to require "all pastors to take an oath of allegiance to Hitler."

Surely, God did not approve of Hitler's anti-Jewish, anti-Christian, anti-freedom regime. Nevertheless, an intriguing question is, what party does God claim? In the book of Joshua, the title character has an encounter with God, or more precisely, the Son of God, which helps provide an answer: "Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, 'Are you for us or for our enemies?' 'Neither,' he replied, 'but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.' 'Then Joshua fell face-down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, 'What message does my Lord have for his servant?'" (Joshua 5:13-14, NIV).

Interpreting this passage, we know that the "man" who appeared to Joshua was Jesus. Joshua asks Jesus, "Are you on our side?" much the same way we ask today, "Lord, are you on our side or theirs?" And how does Jesus



Lieutenant (j.g.) Colin Turner with Vic Primeaux (above) during the reception following the Sector San Diego change of command in late June. Colin, a former BM1, is assistant operations officer at MSST San Diego (91109). Lieutenant Commander Iain McConnell with Vic Primeaux (below) at the former Naval Training Center, San Diego. Iain recently changed jobs at Sector San Diego from Airborne Use-of-Force Officer and is now the Sector's Administration Officer. (photos by Vic Primeaux)



answer? "Neither." In some versions the word is translated "No." He is not on anyone's side. Jesus said that He was the commander—Joshua's captain and the Lord of the battle.

Jesus goes on to explain to Joshua that he will be victorious if he obeys the Lord and does what he is commanded to do. The question, therefore, is not if God is on our side, but rather, are we on God's side?

To me, more important than being a conservative or a liberal, is being a committed Christian—then letting my faith inform my vote. For many years Christians have abstained from politics, and now they are shocked that the culture around them has deteriorated. Certainly, we should not rely solely on political power to right the world's wrongs. All politicians are hu-

man; even the best of them will disappoint.

So how would Jesus have us vote? When Jesus was on earth, He did not reside in a democratic republic and had no opportunity to cast a ballot. But, those of us who make following Him our first priority believe He has spoken through His Word and given us principles that can inform us on how to vote on many issues—from abortion to the sanctity of marriage. In declaring Christian principles that guide voting, we cannot help but be controversial. Others will disagree. It goes with the territory. But unless we risk offending, we cannot uphold our duty to God.

John Calvin once said, "The task of the church is to make the invisible reign of Christ visible." As we submit to His reign more and more in our lives, and compromise less and less with the world, we will see powerful results in our land. All this can begin with voting biblically.

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Remember, this November's election is about a lot more than just picking our nation's next president. Could it be that, just like Queen Esther, each of us has been called not to "remain silent at this time," but to realize that during such critical times we have indeed been chosen "for such a time as this."? (Esther 4:14)

In "The Gulag Archipelago," the massive 3-volume work which exposed the unrelenting and incredible brutality of the Soviet Communist empire, Alexandr Solzhenitsyn records, "Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart—and through all human hearts."

We have been called to stand with the Lord Jesus Christ, our Captain in the battle in America's political and cultural landscape ... and, with much prayer and fasting, to help fulfill "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

Two Christian-oriented web resources to better inform the voter are: www.ivotevalues.org and www.wallbuilders.com/BissuesArticles.asp?id=94

Masthead photo showing the Coast Guard Academy Class of 2012 swearing-in on the Washington Parade Field on 30 June ... where **RADM J. Scott Burhoe**, Superintendent, and **CAPT John Fitzgerald**, Commandant of Cadets, presided at the ceremony. (photo by Vic Primeaux)

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