GOD and GOVERNMENT (Part 4)
"Why and How Should We Vote?"

INTRO: KEY Question (PPT) … SUPPORTING Questions (PPT) …

REVIEW: Role of *Government* is to *Protect*? Role of *citizens* to *Submit and Support* (Taxes).

TODAY: "Why and How Should We Vote?"

Our freedom gives us many choices: family, job, etc. Voting is one of these issues. Does God want us to vote? How can we be sure our vote is pleasing to God? This lesson addresses these questions. Voting is one way we can be involved in the political process of choosing many of our civil leaders. Our form of government (democratic republic) allows the liberty to weigh-in. Sadly, many governments do not give such freedom of participation.

STATS – Yet, voting by self-proclaimed Christians is dismal and shameful. 90 mm self-identified Christians are eligible to vote. Of that, 40 mm don't vote plus 15 mm not even registered to vote equals 55 mm. Only about 35 mm cast votes!! About 20% are silent! Tragic! "Is it a sin not to vote?" Can't say "Yes" for certain (no verse biblically), but I will say it's a mistake not to do so (Jam. 4:17). Address two questions:

I. *WHY* SHOULD WE VOTE?

A. *God Expects It.* What God ordains should receive our care and involvement. God only ordained family, church, and government. That alone should cause us to get involved. I think He expects us, as His representatives to be good citizens. We should participate in voting when we can. It's a right and a duty! Because government is God's idea and because we are privileged to be free to vote, we should do so.

B. *We should care about those who lead us*. Laws that are passed impact our lives. When we vote we are saying we care about our obedience to God and we love our country.

C. *Every vote matters*. History of close elections. Examples … 2015 Mayoral Race in Florida won by Highest Card draw! 2000 Bush vs. Gore – Florida's 25 electoral votes to decide. Popular vote difference for Bush was 537 (6mm cast!)

D. *We vote expecting and trusting God's will is done.* We must believe, regardless of outcomes that God's will has been done. Charles Finney

II. *HOW* SHOULD WE VOTE?

A. VOTE WHAT OVER WHO! Issues over individuals. Policies over persons. People leave office, but their policies continue. God's Word is clear on issues that matter to Him and should matter to His children. *We must get serious about voting biblically instead of politically.* A biblical worldview enables us to do so as we know how God feels about some issues. Sadly, only *one in ten Christians say the Bible shapes their political* views. Voting expresses our belief system. Remember: Jesus is not on the ballot. Every candidate is sinful, flawed, and imperfect, some more so. We are always voting for the lesser of evil people. No perfect candidate only a better one. No one has total package, never 100% (home, car, spouse). What issues matter to God should matter to us, and we should inform ourselves where candidates stand on these issues. Sadly, it is not easy to get their beliefs. Vote for the candidate that is closest to the biblical worldview.

B. ISSUES GOD CARES ABOUT – Biblical worldview (our lens for life)

1. *BORDER SECURITY – God has clearly established borders, nations, and walls*. In Genesis 11:8-9 at Tower of Babel God divided this world into nations. He established the 12 tribes of Israel with borders (Num. 34:1-12; Josh. 11:23). He sets borders (Acts 17:26; Deut. 27:17; 32:8). He directed His people to build walls to protect their cities and borders (2 Chron. 14:7; Psa. 51:18; 1 Kings 3:1; Nehemiah). So, if God is in favor of establishing borders then surely, He favors defending those borders. To some this FEELS unloving, so let me address. *OBJECTION: "But having borders, building walls, and enforcing immigration laws is hateful."* It is not hateful or discriminatory to do these things. We lock our doors for the same reason – not because we hate those on the outside, but because we love those on the inside! A legal immigration process exists to vet who enters our borders. Next, but closely related is …

2. *IMMIGRATION* – God cares about immigrants ("sojourners"). We should care about what God cares about. His word is not silent on this. I remind us America is a nation of immigrants. God commands His people to love immigrants (Exo. 22:21; Lev. 19:34; Deut. 10:19; Matt. 25:35). But, having borders that must be protected and caring for immigrants does not mean that laws on immigration should be disobeyed, otherwise we have chaos. America allows by far the most legal immigrants annually than any other nation. Allowing illegal immigration violates laws of the land and says to all who waited in line to come in legally were suckers. Government has provided legal process for citizenship. Illegal entry into our country is a federal crime since 1929. The issue is not about loving immigrants. We should as God commands. It's about holding people accountable all who break the law. The biblical role of government is to protect its

citizens by enforcing laws that punish crimes. Legal immigrants are not deported, they belong.

3. *NATION ISRAEL – God Providentially Chose a Person* – A man, Abram (Gen. 11:26-32). Haran and Ur were ancient pagan cities that worshipped false gods and idols. God's only requirement was for Abram to trust and obey Him. He providentially chose a Gentile, idolatrous, polygamist to birth a people. *God Miraculously Provided a Son* (11:30; 16:1; 17:15-21; 21:1-7) – Proving the only true God was with him. God did a miracle for all the world to see! God made three promises to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3). First, God promised a LAND (vv. 1, 7, 15) – Gen. 13:15, 17; 15:7, 18 (300,000 sq miles! Currently about 8,000 sq. miles). It was God's land to give as He chose (Ez. 36:5). He commanded them to take full possession of it and "utterly destroy" the inhabitants (never did). The Jewish people have never been "occupiers". It is their land gifted from God. Still unfulfilled! Banished twice and restored (586-516) + (70 AD-1948) – Deut. 30:4-5. Second, God promised a NATION (people) – Gen. 12:2 (13:16; 17:6) – confirmed to Isaac and Jacob (26:4; 35:11). Third, God promised a SEED (12:3; 15:2-3; 17:16; 22:18) confirmed to Isaac (26:4) Who/What is the seed? Messiah Jesus Christ (Jn. 4:22; Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:8, 16). Both the promise of the nation and the seed are fulfilled. Promise of the land is still unfulfilled. All because of God (Deut. 7:6-11). In addition, God promised to protect and punish any nation that arose against them. He did and He has. God promised to bless those who bless His people and punish those who do not.
4. *RELIGIOUS LIBERTY* (Exo. 20:3) – The freedom to live by faith or to believe in nothing must be preserved. The God of the Bible commands us to worship no one or no thing other than Him. Only He deserves our worship. The freedom of religion is a precious gift worth fighting for because of the gospel (1 Tim. 2:1-5). The whole point is to protect the freedom to live and share the lifegiving gospel. Nothing is more important and needed. This is not just freedom for *our* religion but freedom *for* religion. Places where missionaries are most in danger are where there is no religious liberty. I want Jesus in the conversation because He wins every time!
5. *FAMILY* (Marriage, Parenting) – Psa. 127:3 Family was instituted by God from the creation of Adam, then Eve, and family (Gen. 1-2). Government didn't invent family. God did. Therefore, government shouldn't redefine marriage. God is clear – marriage is between a man and a woman. Let me add this. Parental rights are being slowly stripped by evil agendas. Our kids have been entrusted to our care. They do not belong to the State. They belong to God and to those He has entrusted them!
6. *BIOLOGICAL SEX (Gen. 1:27)* – God created Adam (male) and Eve (female). Any deviation is outside the order of creation. Use of distinctions between male and female has resulted in chaos and ruined lives. God creates life and assigns gender in the womb (Psa. 139:13-16). Booker T. Washington … Who we are, whether male or female, is God-ordained. Become all the person in gender God created you to be. Transgender is condemned in the Bible as sin (Deut. 22:5; 23:1), also is homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:10). The good news is all sin can be forgiven through Christ.
7. *LIFE* (Psa. 139:13-16). God is the Author of life (Acts 3:15). Life should be protected as sacred (Pro. 6:17). Only a hardened and blind heart can deny life begins at conception. That life (ALL life) must be respected and protected. To take life is to be guilty of murder (Exo. 20:6). Recall first civil law in Genesis 9? God's image and likeness exists in every human. Life must be protected, whether unborn, immigrant, poor, orphans, widows, etc. How can we promote human dignity for *all* peoples, while denying it to these in the womb? Deut. 27:19

I believe these are the issues that God cares about based upon His Word. We should research and get informed where a candidate stands on these worldview issues (if we can!). Vote for those who do so, if only on one of these. Do not just vote for someone who claims to be a Christian. Being Christian doesn't guarantee competency. Ideally, we desire candidates who are both following Christ and competent to lead.

CONC: For well over 200 years, Americans have been engaged in the longest-running and most peaceful revolution called "the American vote." Let's continue that wisely. Voting is not just a right, it's a duty. Freedom must be protected. We mustn't sit out elections. We must answer the KEY question: "What must we know and do to advance the kingdom of God for the glory of God to stem the tide of evil in our land until Jesus comes?" If we do nothing, remain silent, fail to vote, evil will rush into our apathy and silence. Hold your nose but vote. No perfect choice, just a better choice. Vote what over who – but please register and vote so we can change this nation!