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From the Pastor's Desk

Television and newspaper ads, billboards, bumper stickers, debates, look around and you can clearly tell it's election time again. Even this past month, while I was at the Pastor's conference in Jacksonville, two candidates, Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich, made an appearance.

Candidates are making every plea for us to vote for them; they proclaim how they can change everything in Washington, D.C. and by doing so fix all of our problems. Some make it seem as though if they were President there would be world peace, bigger paychecks, a clean and pure environment, and why not a cure for cancer and an end to death. Politicians are giving their usual campaign promises that no man could every fully accomplish.

All this to say, how should we, as Christians, think Biblically through this issue of politics, and what should our role be? How should we respond to the problems we see within our nation? Is the right answer to those problems found in a candidate or political party?

First let's think about what the real problems are within our nation by getting to the root cause of them. The root cause of all of mankind's problems is ultimately the reality that man is sinful; this has been the case since the fall we read about in the book of Genesis.

With this reality in mind, we must remember that the real solution to our nation's problems will not be found in a man, or woman, any political candidate or party.

Continued on the next page...

Scripture Verse of the Month

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2 (ESV)



Events for February

- Church Workday Feb 4th, 9 AM
- Lord's Supper Feb 5th, during AM Service
- Pastries and Prayer Feb 11th, 8:30 AM
- Lunch for Youth and Young Adults.....Feb 12th, after AM Service
- Church Anniversary Service/Lunch..... Feb 19th
- Youth Gross Olympics Feb 25th, 1 PM
- Church Directory Picture Taking Days.....Feb 26th and Mar 4th
- Visitation Teams Fellowship Feb 27th, 6 PM

Every Thursday, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM, throughout the months of February and March, there will be Spanish classes offered. Cost is \$5 per week and \$15 for the book. Class is open to all but is required for those going to Peru.

First Baptist Church of Pinellas Park

Training And Sending for the Kingdom

From the Pastor's Desk continued...

I say this being, unashamedly, a conservative Republican. I agree most consistently with their core beliefs as a political party and with many of their leaders. However, my trust for the future is not found in them, and I do not believe that they are *the* solution to our problems.

Now don't get me wrong, God can use them to accomplish great things, and some of them are even believers in Jesus. Yet the greatest need for our country is not a political party but a Savior!

Too often we have allowed ourselves to become so consumed in proclaiming a particular political party or politician that we forget the One we are supposed to be sharing, our Savior.

If you think I am crazy, just ask yourself this one simple question, "Do I proclaim Jesus more than I do my political preferences?" Be honest. Do you have more conversations with people trying to convince them to be

a Republican or Democrat than you do of convicting them with the truth of God's word and what it means to be a Christian?

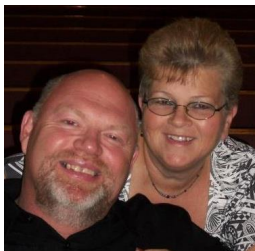
Hear me loud and clear, believers, you should vote and do so according to clear Biblical convictions. You should be involved in the political process and be in prayer for politicians and our nation as they elect those who lead.

But if we want to change our city, our state, our nation, our world, the only way it will be done is through the proclamation of the life changing good news of the gospel! When people encounter the gospel, they are changed. And if those in leadership, those candidates we choose this election season, are changed by the gospel then our nation and world will change for better too.

No politician and no political party can make a greater change than Christ can!

In Christ Alone,
Pastor Dewayne Slusher

Servant of the Month



This February we would like to recognize Gary Campbell as the servant of the month. He has not been a member long, but he has quickly become a blessing to all. He is up at the church almost every day, tinkering, fixing, and cleaning. He also was a great help in the planning and completing of the renovations on the first floor by serving as one of our trustees.

Gary has also been keeping busy by helping in other areas, including the Youth Sunday School class and has chaperoned some of their events.

There is an attitude of service present with Gary. He is willing to serve where and when he can, even in spite of some of the difficulties he faces because of the after effects of a stroke. This stroke was a challenge, as it would be for anybody, yet he did not let it pull him from Christ but draw him closer.

Gary has been a great addition to the First Baptist family, and we thank him for his service and willingness to use the gifts and talents God has given to serve the Lord with us.

Missions Monthly

North America's population is a growing melting pot as roughly fifteen percent has immigrated from other countries. These new residents bring with them a culture and a worldview that challenge the church in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Sang Shin, a former microbiologist from Seoul, Korea, is proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the many different language groups living in Virginia. Thanks in part to our support of missions through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®, Sang and his wife, **Kyung Esther**, are starting healthy, reproducing congregations among these language groups.

Take a few moments this week to pray for these new churches to grow and to multiply so that the gospel can be heard throughout all people groups in the state.

Learn more about what your giving and praying does by visiting cpmissions.net.

