



# LOOKING TO JESUS AS... HEBREWS 12:2

 With an election right around the corner, Adam Miller asks the question: Who would Jesus vote for?

 Check out this month's "Looking to Jesus As" article by John Nieder as we await the soon coming King.

 Were you able to make it to our Cape Cod Conference this year? No? See inside for details on how to receive a copy of the conference sessions on cd.

 This month's offer from Gregg Matte shows that even though the ground is hard in New England, the fields are still white to harvest. Check out his book "Unstoppable Gospel" on the insert card.



## WHO WOULD JESUS VOTE FOR? BY ADAM MILLER

I have never been a particular fan of the expression, "What Would Jesus Do?" Partly because it doesn't work in every scenario. How is that question going to prevent you from drowning? Jesus would just walk on water. Also, what about situations Jesus never faced? He was never given a ballot to vote, and yet, He is the one who appoints kings and rulers. Knowing that He appointed Herod, Nero, and Hitler, however, gives us very little reassurance when going to the polls.

As Christians in the United States, we have been given an amazing opportunity to vote for our representatives. While this is a privilege that we shouldn't take lightly, it is also a challenge to understand

all of the ramifications that Christ would consider in choosing a national leader.

### DON'T PUT STOCK IN GOVERNMENT

Even though the United States was founded on biblical principles for governance, the first election in the Bible did not bode well for God's people. When the Israelites came to Samuel and asked for a king, he warned them that doing so would result in grave consequences. It was never God's desire to have governments stand in His place: taking tithes and conscripting servants (1 Samuel 8:10-18). But what is so interesting about the warning of Samuel is how normative these laws seem to us today. Samuel thought that a ten percent tax was a bad idea. Yet even the most conservative politicians today think

that the government needs at least four times that amount.

God gave the People of Israel what they wanted. Likewise, God has given the Church in the United States the government of our own design. It was evangelicals who lobbied to pass the sixteenth amendment, the federal income tax, in order to ensure prohibition. Just as the Israelites demanded a king, we too turned to government instead of to God.

All throughout the Bible there isn't a single empire exempt from corruption and every great kingdom in history has collapsed. While we are called to honor those God has placed over us, we are never told to put our stock in government.

### VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE

When it comes to voting, there are many factors an individual should consider. There certainly isn't enough room in this article to address them all, so I won't address any of them

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## ► WHO WOULD JESUS VOTE FOR <CONTINUED>

specifically. Instead, we will look at the central issue of concern for every Christian. When we vote, we are accountable to all that the Holy Spirit has taught us through God's Word. The process of our sanctification involves Christ transforming us into His image. So if we are going to ask the question, "Who would Jesus vote for?" we have to consider our conscience.

When I say, "vote your conscience," I don't mean what politicians imply when they position themselves as the moral choice. Neither am I expressing what many Evangelical leaders insinuate when they endorse a candidate. Since the Bible hasn't explicitly laid out how Christians should vote, we are all going to have to work this problem out on our own (Romans 14:5). However, that doesn't exempt us from informing our conscience. Ignorance is the enemy of truth. We should always understand the consequences of our decisions. Therefore, it is important to examine the various ways that we approach the voting process.

A principled voter chooses the candidate that best represents their personal convictions. This often results in someone becoming a one-issue voter. However, one-issue voting often leads to manipulation where politicians make promises they have no intention of keeping just to secure a group of voters.

Just because a principled person strictly votes their conscience does not mean that those who use a different system are without merit. A pragmatic voter will tend to weigh the consequences of their vote and

often settle for the lesser-of-two-evils. However, there is not much hope of building a better tomorrow when a voter is forced to choose between two negatives.

The third system reflects a strategic voter. While many people would say that not voting for their candidate is a vote for their opponent, the reality is that not voting for the lesser-of-two-evils could possibly be the only solution to getting out of a downward spiral.

There are many ways to approach voting. The fact that people will have different systems should not cause division amongst believers. If voting is a matter of conscience, there is going to be a wide diversity of opinions.

### SO, WHO WOULD JESUS VOTE FOR?

Jesus has already cast His vote. We will get the leader whom we deserve. However, Jesus has made a long term vote that cannot be deterred by changing political figures. Jesus' primary vote is for the Church.

Perhaps the biggest problem with conservative evangelical politics is that we have looked to government when we should be looking to the Body of Christ. This is evidenced in the fact that we are far more likely to advertise who we are voting for than proclaim that we are Christians, we are more impassioned by our political beliefs than the theology of the Bible, and it is easier for us to strike up a conversation with a stranger about politics than it is to share the gospel.

Politics brings out droves of Christians, passionate about chang-

ing their nation, and yet, we often neglect the primary means in which God is working in this world. If we are not as committed to our Churches as we are to our political parties then we have failed to understand our calling. It is crucial that we remind ourselves again that what happens each and every Sunday under the ministry of the Word is vastly more influential than what happens in the ballot box.

### WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Whenever I see a Christian bitter over government I am burdened to remind them of the promises of God. God never promised that a world full of sinners would cater to our comfort. On the contrary, He told us that just as they hated Jesus they would also hate us (John 15:18). Yet, in the face of persecution throughout Church history, God's promises have continued. Though every kingdom has fallen, the Church has survived. Even the

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gates of hell cannot prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).

Just because we shouldn't complain about the corruption in our culture doesn't mean that it shouldn't bother us. There are a lot of injustices in the world and Christians should be the first to address them. We ought to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with

our God (Micah 6:8). We cannot simply speak out against injustice, we must do the right thing. We cannot simply preach the gospel, we should demonstrate it through our acts of grace and mercy. We should not only stand up for the widows, orphans, and immigrants (Matthew 25:41-46, James 1:27), but we should lower ourselves to meet

their needs even as Christ humbled Himself to save sinners.

Jesus has voted. He has given His life for the Church. Who will you vote for in this coming election?



► *Rev. Adam Miller is the President and Host of Songtime and can be heard daily on the Songtime Radio Broadcast.*



## LOOKING TO JESUS AS THE SOON COMING KING BY JOHN NIEDER

June 21, 2016: Times Square, New York City. Christian leaders from across the country gathered to meet Presidential Candidate Donald Trump. Franklin Graham opened the day in prayer. Before praying, Graham boldly stated that Jesus Christ is the only answer for the problems we face in America. Graham warned against placing confidence in either political party, while calling all in attendance to passionately pray for America. I joined a chorus of others nodding in agreement.

Our country is in serious jeopardy and a strong case could be made that we are already experiencing the judgment of God. The moral decline has brought us to the place where the Lord has given our nation over to a “debased mind.” We not only tolerate evil in our day — we approve of it and even promote it (Romans 1:28-32).

So what can we who embrace biblical truth do when our beliefs are opposed and rejected by a growing segment of our society? We who know Jesus Christ as our Savior need to be looking intently to Him, asking Him to bring revival to our hearts and to our country — all the while awaiting His return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Paul's words to the Church at

Philippi give direction and encouragement to us. We are now only days away from an election marked by hostility, deception, chaos, and confusion. Drawing a stark contrast between those who are enemies of the cross and true believers, Paul reminds us we are not to set our minds on earthly things because, “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20).

Truth be told, many of us are captivated and distracted by the world and its ways, paying mere lip service to the reality that Jesus Christ could return at any moment. The immediate prospect of His return for His bride, the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18) should motivate us to at every moment be ready and “renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age” (Titus 2:12). And we live this way, “waiting for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

Anticipating the end of his life and ministry, the Apostle Paul told Timothy he would soon depart and

be with the Lord for whom he lived his life. He fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. What was it that drove Paul and gained for him the Crown of Righteousness? Paul longed for

and loved the promise of the appearing of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 4:8).

Do you “love His appearing” as Paul did? Everything changes when we live our lives

passionately preparing for that future event. The moment

we hear the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call, our life's work will come to an end. We will then give an account to Him for our lives and be rewarded accordingly.

When we study and meditate on the Word of God and then contemplate the state of our world, we discover many reasons to believe we are in the season of the Lord's return. In the book of Hebrews we are admonished to gather with other believers — that we might encourage one another. The passage continues, “and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:25). In other words, we desperately need to be together as the Body of Christ, building each other up — especially as we see “the Day” approaching.

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## ► LTJA: THE SOON COMING KING <CONTINUED>

What we learn in this passage is not only sound advice, but a biblical command for believers to draw together in the face of the terrible times predicted in the Word of God.

Notice it says, “as we see.” Can we see THE DAY approaching? Yes. How close are we? The convergence of many signs predicted in the Word would strongly suggest His return is in the not too distant future. We don’t set dates, but we are to be mindful of the precursors indicating we stand in the shadows of His return. Consider several of these characteristics:

1. The worldwide persecution and martyrdom of Christians is a preview of predictions in the Scriptures. For example, Revelation 20:4 — “Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and

had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.”

2. Israel’s miraculous existence continually faces the challenges of increasing global antisemitism. Today Israel finds itself surrounded by Islamic countries seeking its complete destruction. Apart from Bible prophecy, it makes no sense that a nation the size of New Jersey would be so prominent in international politics.

3. The plans are in place for the rebuilding of the third Jewish Temple. Priests have been identified and educated in preparation for their duties. There is now a more substantial daily Jewish presence on the Temple Mount than at any time since 70 AD when the Romans destroyed the Temple and the City of Jerusalem. Daniel 9:27 reveals that the Temple and the sacrificial system will be fully functional during the tribulation period.

With these and many other signs converging and pointing to “the Day,” it greatly concerns me that few believers possess even a cursory view of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In the days ahead Christians must encourage and strengthen one another as never before. Together let’s purpose to fight the good fight and keep the faith, spurring one another on as we long for and love His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8).



► A year following the 9-11 attacks, Dr. John DeBrine interviewed John Nieder on his book, “The Wake Up Call.” After a series of follow up interviews Dr. DeBrine asked John to produce a prophecy edition of Songtime which he did for ten years until Dr. DeBrine’s retirement. John and his wife, Teri, live in the Dallas area and have continued their radio and internet ministry, Live the Word. Nieder will be our keynote speaker at this year’s Lancaster Conference. Find out more below.

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