

"Right Responses to the Election"  
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
  1. one section of questions
  2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want

INTRODUCTION

Elections tend to magnify the fact that our country is fairly evenly divided in our values: political views, moral choices, levels of financial responsibility. Regardless of whether you are mourning or celebrating the recent results of our election, Jesus is still Lord. Regardless of where you lean, as the Church, God wants to restore His people, and He wants us to live biblically, even in a divided land in a volatile time.

MESSAGE

***What is a right response to the elections and the road or consequences that lie ahead?***

## **Three Responses:**

***How we respond has everything to do with our personal outcome and the long-range outcome of our nation!***

### **1. Respond with right perspective (faith, not fear).**

- Fear = agreeing with bad media
  - Do not let media shape your outlook of the future.
- Faith = responding according to the Word of God
  - It is time for a glorious church to arise.
- We serve a just and merciful God, and His promises are still going to be fulfilled.

***Don't let "doom and gloom" get in your spirit; as believers, we are to look up and respond in faith.***

[Hebrews 12.22-29 NLT]

*No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel. Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven! When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also." This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain. Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a devouring fire.*

***Guard your heart, and take in more of God's Word and perspective!  
We are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable!***

***LET'S BELIEVE FOR: continued grace, new mercy, the fulfillment of Jesus' promises, and the Church that arises in revival as the end draws nearer!***

## **2. Respond with more prayer and greater humility.**

- Hyper sovereignty ("God knew all along") vs. human responsibility (choices).
- It's never too late to turn things around.
- Humility = an accurate assessment of who we are apart from grace

***It only takes a righteous remnant.***

[Jeremiah 18.7-10, NIV]

*If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom, but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not bless it as I said I would.*

***No matter what, keep our eyes on God! [2 Chronicles 20 prayer]***

[Philippians 4.6-7, NLT]

*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

## **3. Speak blessing and pray for our leaders.**

[1 Timothy 2.1-4, NIV]

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

***The blessing is found in the brokenness.***

- Our political system and the way our culture is formed, creates a villain and a hero, an enemy and an idol.
- Don't get caught up in the false security that an earthly leader is going to fix all of our problems.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1.** What would you like to see change or happen in your generation?
- 2.** What was the original intent of the church in the first century community, and what could that look like today?
- 3.** In 2012, how did we get to this place: culturally, morally, financially? (Think generations.)
- 4.** How can you do your part to set up the generations that will follow for success and biblical living?