

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

August 19, 2020

“It’s an election year”

“For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘lords’—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

I Corinthians 8:5-6

The passage above seems appropriate because it is the time that comes along every four years when we begin to hear panic in the voice of some of our brethren. Why? It’s an “election year.” Some are terrified that if the election doesn’t go their way that we are doomed. But Paul reminds us that there are many “gods” (just substitute “powerful politicians”) in the world but God is one and Jesus is Lord and we live and exist for him.

I distinctly remember all the times in my life when the world was going to come to an end if a certain person was elected president (I was going to name a few of those presidents but thought better of it). The point is, the world did not come to an end; we are still here. Yet, every election—including this one—is *“the most important election of our lifetime.”* The *“soul of the nation” is at stake!!* Yet, when it’s all over, not much will change except the losers will pout and the winners will gloat and not much will be actually accomplished.

Let’s face it: no matter what side you’re on, “election year,” exposes many of these people as liars, deceivers and hypocrites. It reveals more about their character than their stance on policies. Some will do or say anything to get elected. Some operate on whim, with a finger in the air to see which way the winds are blowing; they have no core principles that guide them. If the end is what they want, any means used to get there is justified so they can exaggerate and lie without flinching.

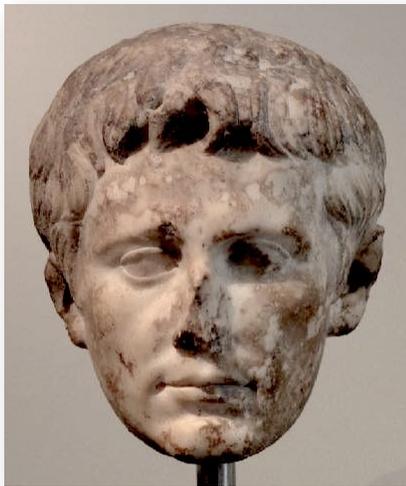
This year, the political playbook features fear-mongering. Why is that? Because fear makes people irrational and that serves a politician’s ends. And, fear is

a mechanism to control people—and that’s a goal of many of our less honorable “public servants.” That’s why many politicians can lie through their teeth. When they joke that “it’s politics” it sounds a lot like a mafia boss when, after executing an opponent, he says, “it’s just business.”

All of this seems so obvious. So why would a Christian ever pin his or her hopes on a politician in the first place? Did Jesus even mention politicians? He said *“render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”* (Matthew 22:21). That’s about it. Oh, and he called Herod “that fox” (Luke 13:32) but that wasn’t a political statement, it was a character analysis. Jesus had plenty to say to and about the religious leaders of his day, who were *acting* like politicians. But that was because they were perverting God’s word.

I can’t remember any of the apostles ever commenting on the political climate, either. They knew the world was a twisted place so they taught about and invited people into a kingdom that was not of this world (John 18:36) and praised God that they had been delivered from the domain of darkness (Colossians 1:13). They knew that Jesus did not come into the world to reform it but to deliver us *from* it.

When you’ve lived through 14-15 presidential elections, you learn a thing or two. You learn that the term “it’s an election year” is not just a statement of fact but means that those who are in power are running the show with one goal in mind: to gain or stay in power. So, you learn to take all claims, all promises and the endless quotation of statistics with a huge grain of salt. I can’t tell you how the election will turn out. But I guarantee one thing: that all those stats, promises and claims will change radically on November 4th (the day after the election).



Bust of Augustus Caesar (27 BC to 14 AD), Emperor of Rome, when Jesus was born. This “august” politician is dead, but Jesus is still alive (Hebrews 7:25).

[Photo taken at New York Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2011].