

"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

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Make Your Calling And Election Sure (2 Peter 1:10)



After you have voted and the person is in office, are you sure you voted for the right person? Or is there more to politics than meets the eye? Was the election sure? Of course this is a different election but nonetheless, was it sure?

What is politics?

Power. If you think politics is about one ideology against another (Democrats vs. Republicans), you are being fooled. It is about the big machines of gaining or defending power to influence the people. What we see as political issues are simply attempts to work us up and get us distracted from our work. It is not about the people.

How many times do politicians carry out their campaign promises? How many issues are on the table that seems to go on without a solution? Property taxes, boarder closing in Mexico, Social Security, Health Care, etc. These issues will not be solved while they are hot issue getting you involved in politics.

Your primary focus is to fulfill Matthew 24:14. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations." Politics and political issues are a distraction. It is of the world. Though many issues are important from a spiritual position, none are more important than to represent Christ in the world. And it is increasingly hard to witness to someone when you have been obvious in your political position.

What saith the Lord?

Look at Jesus! See how he avoided politics? Even when they tried to drag Jesus into politics, he avoided taking sides. He avoided being distracted. "Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in [his] talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any [man]: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore,

What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, [ye] hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose [is] this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:15-21).

Show us anywhere that Jesus got involved in politics.

Look at the prophets. Which one was involved in politics? Not one.

The reason why Jesus and the prophets were not involved in politics, and believe us that there were heated political debates back then, is that taking sides weakens the gospel message. Republicans have a hard time listening to Democrats preaching the word. Likewise, Democrats have a hard time listening to Republicans preaching the word. But if politics are set aside, then both parties are able to listen.

Lack of political involvement does not mean leaving issues unaddressed

Notice that religious political questions were still addressed.

John addressed adultery, a big political issue. "For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put [him] in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her" (Mt. 14:3-4).

Nathan addressed murder and adultery. "And Nathan said to David, Thou [art] the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if [that had been] too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to

WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, not as blind pew warmers but rather as searchers of a TSTL — "Thus Saith the Lord"

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe.

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Do You Have A TSTL For That???

If someone asked you "why do you believe that or why do you do that" could you give them an answer from the Bible — a TSTL?

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Debt Reduction Progress


Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 has accumulated in debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the ministry expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when Jerry lost his job due to religious conflict. Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment but it requires very long hours, especially now with traveling home each night to see his family (1.5 hr drive), and then he must stay up late to do the work. Can you help lower this debt faster?


\$64,612 Prior Balance
 - **343** Readership
 - **6,171** O'Donnell's
\$58,098 Current Balance

Any request to be removed from our mailing list because you cannot assist us or feel guilty will not be honored. That is not what this appeal is about.

WEB SITES TO CONSIDER

 **TSTL.NET** is for the general public

 **TSTL4MINISTERS.NET** is for any minister, bible worker, teacher, etc.

 **TSTL4CHILDREN.NET** is for the children and the contents will be a transfer of children's material from TSTL.NET to this new site.

do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife [to be] thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon" (2 Samuel 12:7-9).

Satan is not dumb.

He makes religious issues political – abortion, homosexuality, environment, etc. Therefore, if you speak out, you appear to be involved in politics. So avoidance is not the answer.

Getting political over welfare for people (Democrats) as opposed to welfare for businesses (Republicans), minimum wage levels, potential withdraw from Iraq as opposed to staying in Iraq, forced vaccines upon girls in Texas, burning of the flag, etc is wrong. Stay out of it.

How can you witness to someone who is totally opposed to your view and is heated up about it? You cannot. And that is why you have to hide and even remove your political beliefs.

In addition, Satan has so many people worked up into religious politics. What is that all about? It is not about defending religious liberty. Such power has a history of forcing religion upon the people. And God does not work that way.

Who are you to be praising?

"But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

So campaigning for a favorite candidate is lifting up who? Do not waste your time.

We ought not to get involved in politics except on issues

Now keep in mind that your voice needs to be heard on religious issues. Getting fired up over property taxes, more taxes, the war in Iraq, is just a distraction from your God given existence. Getting fired up against forced

religion, as some countries experience, against the restriction in speech on certain religious convictions, and others is permissible. Even go and vote your issue conviction. But do not vote just to vote.

There is something worse than voting for the wrong candidate – voting without knowing the facts.

If you are going to vote...

Vote informed decisions. If you do not know the candidates who are running, voting the ticket is just wrong. It is better to leave it blank than to just blindly choose someone.

You have a work to do!

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19).

God's people have been called out of the world, that they may be separated from the world. It is not safe for them to take sides in politics, whatever preference they may have. They are ever to remember that they are one in Christ. God calls upon them to enter their names as under His theocracy. Let us not forget that we are citizens of the kingdom of heaven. We are soldiers of the cross of Christ, and our work is to advance the interests of His kingdom.

Where are you going to invest your time?

"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in [his] brother's way" (Romans 14:13). Put another way, politics interferes with your witnessing ability. It is less affective. Keep your politics private and your witness of Christ public. *"Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24).*

Keep in mind that this country, as all countries, will cease to exist one day. Should you invest your time in a country that will fade away or in the everlasting kingdom?

ADD TO THIS FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Send to TSTL, PO Box 10607, Harrisburg, PA 17105

DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



What Does God Say About Hate?

1. What do fools hate?
Proverbs 1:22
2. What are God's people to hate?
Proverbs 8:13
3. What does a righteous person hate?
Proverbs 13:5
4. What do parents who do not correct their children hate? **Proverbs 13:24**
5. What will happen to those that think they do not need to ever change their ways?
Proverbs 15:10

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

What Does God Think About Anger

1. What is anger? **Proverbs 27:4** "*Wrath [is] cruel, and anger [is] outrageous; but who [is] able to stand before envy?*"
2. Who is greater than a mighty or strong person? **Proverbs 16:32** "*[He that is] slow to anger [is] better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*"
3. Is all anger wrong? **Ephesians 4:26** "*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.*" In other supporting scriptures, being angry over religious matters is permissible. Making the sanctuary a market place of greed, as Jesus experienced, is one example. So the answer is No. All anger is not wrong. Holy anger is permitted.
4. What clarification is placed on anger? **Matthew 5:22** "*But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*"
5. What type of decisions does an angry person make? **Proverbs 14:17** "*[He that is] soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.*"

WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED? (Isaiah 53:1)



WND, November 3, 2007 - Pastor on trial for refusal to work with female minister

A pastor who refused to work with a female minister because of his biblical convictions has been charged with criminal discrimination by a Finnish court. The incident was turned over to police when the chair of the Hyvinkää Church Council filed a request for an investigation, according to the Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat.

COMMENT: Right or wrong on the subject of female ministers, it is not right to bring up charges against religious convictions. In no way does his convictions harm anyone nor put anyone in danger. Mark 13:9 "*But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a*

testimony against them."

The Buffalo News, Nov. 2, '07 - Niagara Falls prophesied as site of 2nd Coming

The Second Coming of Christ will occur in Niagara Falls, says Isaiah Robertson. "The revival of Christ will start right here," he said. "God said he would take his glory from one of the wonders of the world — and that wonder is Niagara Falls." Millions of Christians believe in the Second Coming of Christ, in which the Christian savior will return to earth for a final judgment of the living and the dead.

COMMENT: 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 says, "*For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say*

(Continued on page 4)

Think On These Things

How Do You Answer?

"Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, [ye] hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose [is] this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard [these words], they marvelled, and left him, and went their way. (Matthew 22:17-22)

If it comes down to Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani, who would you vote for? "I would vote for Hillary because..."? "I would vote for Rudy because..."? Or, "Let the politics handle themselves. How is your relationship with God?"

Should we transfer the property tax burden to the middle class or spread it evenly? Hopefully you would answer, "Give to Caesar what is Caesars. But God gets 10% first!"

So how hot do you get over boarders being wide open, your hard earn dollars going to welfare of lazy people (not all) or mismanaged companies (not all), illegals to be granted amnesty or sent back, schools spending thousands on sports and little on improved education, ...? Hopefully you get involved only on the right subjects.

DECEMBER 2007

**Are You A Strong
Democrat? Republican?
Independent?**

(Main article)

**What Does God Say
About Hate?**

(Bible Study)

**Who Will You Vote For
Between Hillary And
Rudy?**

(Think On These Things)

*If you think this is a political
newsletter, read it first.*

(Comments on the News continued from page 3)

unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Jesus is to come to this earth, not bringing people from heaven, but coming for people to bring them so far up into the clouds. Then this understanding is further confirmed by John 14:1-3. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also." Jesus does not bring the mansions to us; He takes us where the mansions are that He is preparing. Putting it all together, Jesus does not immediately set up a kingdom on this earth. Jesus

returns at the second coming for His people, gathers the dead and alive, and takes them to heaven. The Kingdom of God eventually is relocated according to Revelation, but that is not at the second coming.

» **CNS, November 2, 2007 - Pray for the dead in case they're in purgatory**

While Christians should hope that their deceased loved ones are in heaven, they must pray for them in case they are in purgatory, said Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze. Vatican Radio asked the cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, about a frequent comment at funerals that the deceased is now with God in heaven. "The people present at a funeral have no authority to canonize anyone," the cardinal said in the interview broadcast Nov. 2, the feast of All Souls. "They can hope that the person has arrived in the house of the Father in heaven, but it is just as possible that the person is in purgatory," he said. "Only God knows if that person is already in heaven; we cannot know and, therefore, we pray for that person because he could be in purgatory. However, if the person already is in heaven, God certainly will use all of those prayers for another

person."

COMMENT: First, we cannot find purgatory in the Bible. Second, the Bible mentions only two places -- heaven and hell. Third, 1 Cor. 15:22-23 says, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." This means that the location of people does not occur until this time. Fourth, Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." When a person dies, that is it. They are judged and no praying will move them from one place to another.

Other Articles At www.tstl.net:

» **NBC, October 23, 2007 - Lost wedding memories found 27 years after Mansfield couple's big day**

» **October 17, 2007 - Debate flies over 'sex play' in kindergartens**

» **CNN, Oct. 16, 2007 - Drought in West and Southeast spreads to Mid-Atlantic**