

# WHY SHOULD WE VOTE?

*a Fourteen-Day Family Devotional*  
by Ben Quine



<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

#### Deuteronomy 6:4-9

God commanded the people of Israel to teach their children His law, the history of His provision for them, and the depth of His great goodness and covenant-love. Today we should similarly teach our children God's principles and tell them of His love for us all.

One of the greatest joys and challenges of my life is being a father to three wonderful sons, Andrew, Luke, and Peter. The following devotions are adapted from conversations my wife and I have had with them over the question, "Why should we vote?"

Andrew, Luke, and Peter, this book is dedicated to you. I'm so proud of each of you!

- Ben Quine

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## PROLOGUE:

# What is a Government?

“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.” (1 Peter 2:13-14)

- ✓ **How do you feel when your brother or sister takes something of yours?**
- ✓ **What would happen if there were no parents to settle these kind of disputes?**

When God created the universe, He made stars, plants, and animals—everything that we can see all around us. But He also invented things we can’t see: like angels, music, hot and cold, and gravity. He created families, churches, and governments, and He gave them each particular roles. Part of the job of families is to take care of children, discipline them, and teach them; to support each other and love each other; to care for those in need, and share the highs and lows of life together; and to love God and each other.

But why did God create the government? Remember when God formed the world, how He separated the light from darkness, and made butterflies, giraffes, and dolphins? Then He made the first man and the first woman and He said, it was “very good.” But because people disobeyed God (sinned) that brought great pain and confusion into the world.

Very soon after that Cain killed his brother Able, and God knew that humans would go on hurting each other and would want to fight back against anyone who hurt them. He knew that many of them would steal, and do as much evil as they could get away with. But God doesn't want people to hurt each other, so He designed government to protect people and keep them safe. He wants governments to set up rules that are fair, where everyone is treated the same, where people can work, where evil is punished, where people can learn about Him and gather to worship Him without fear. When a government fulfills this God-given role, it is a blessing to everyone. Unfortunately, sin can ruin governments too, and when there are bad leaders it causes all kinds of problems.



In the United States we have a special opportunity, a very significant and important job: we get to play a part in choosing our leaders. We call this voting, and it is one of the most important things we can do as citizens of this country. There are many reasons why we should do this, and we'll take a look at some of them over the next two weeks.

## DAY 1:

# We Vote Because it is a Great Privilege

“During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob... Then the LORD said, ‘I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings.’”  
(Exodus 2:23-24, 3:7)

- ✓ **Have you ever been given a really wonderful present or owned a special pet?**
- ✓ **Did you take good care of it?**

The people of Israel experienced oppression many times in the Bible: they suffered as slaves in Egypt, were besieged by their neighbors (like the Philistines), were abused by many of their own kings, and then were crushed and exiled by Assyria and Babylon. In most countries of the world and for most of the history of the world, the powerful people have ruled over and oppressed the weak. Whether they are called Pharaohs, Kings, Emperors, Czars, or Presidents, God doesn't like dictators who use their power and money to mistreat or hurt others.

The American Pilgrims loved God and the Bible, and they wanted to be able to gather together to worship in freedom. But the

English king put them in prison for not worshipping in the way he thought they should. So in 1620 they endured a dangerous journey to a strange new world, seeking a country where they could worship God in peace. Since then many others have also, like those first pilgrims, come to the USA for freedom.

The opportunity we have in the United States to choose our own leaders by election is a remarkable privilege, a priceless treasure. Always remember that not everyone has this ability — it is a special gift from God. We must take care of this privilege and never take it for granted. We should cherish this freedom, and in gratitude for it, we must vote.



*“For my own part, I sincerely esteem [the US Constitution] a system which, without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests.”*

**ALEXANDER HAMILTON**  
FATHER OF THE US CONSTITUTION

## DAY 2:

# We Vote Because it is Our Duty

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1)

- ✓ **What chores are you required to do as a member of your family?**
- ✓ **What would happen if you didn't do them?**

God wants us to obey the laws of our country (as long as we don't have to break His law in order to do so). But in America a Christian's role is more significant. Just like the chores you do because you are a part of your family, Americans have some very important jobs to do because they are citizens of this country.

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

Our Constitution establishes *the people* as the foundation and guides for our government. That means that we have the responsibility to pray for our leaders, to share truth with our friends and neighbors, to vote, to direct our elected officials and



hold them accountable, and to run for office. Our job is to “keep our government pure and the governors honest,” to keep the nation guided towards the common good. This is a *solemn duty* (a very serious and important job). When we see our government becoming corrupted, it is our duty to take steps to get it back on the right path. Abraham Lincoln said, “It is a sin to be silent when it is your duty to protest.” If we fail to keep our government accountable, we will do great harm to our land. The responsibility to vote is an opportunity God has given us. As followers of Christ it is our responsibility to be faithful with the authority God has given us to vote for our elected leaders. “To whom much is given much is required” (Luke 12:48).



*“Who will govern the governors? There is only one force in the nation that can be depended upon to keep the government pure and the governors honest, and that is the people themselves. They alone, if well informed, are capable of preventing the corruption of power, and of restoring the nation to its rightful course if it should go astray. They alone are the safest depository of the ultimate powers of government.”*

**THOMAS JEFFERSON**

AUTHOR OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
3<sup>RD</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

## DAY 3:

# We Vote to Elect Godly Leaders

“And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.’” (Acts 6:2-3)

- ✓ **Who is the best leader you know? (Such as parent, coach, teacher, etc.) Do you like being on their team?**
- ✓ **What makes them a great leader?**

God’s people often selected their leaders (Exodus 18:17-23, Joshua 18:4, Acts 6:1-3), and they were told to look for people who were wise and godly.

Two examples of incredible leaders in the Bible were Nehemiah and Ezra. They taught the people God’s Word and helped them fortify and defend Jerusalem while they were surrounded by enemies. The people prospered physically and spiritually under their care. What made them good leaders? Well, lots of things, but mostly it was that they loved God, obeyed His Word, and did what was best for their people, instead of just looking out for themselves. They were *servant leaders*, much like Jesus Christ himself, who did what was best for us even though it cost him his life.

Psalms 119 says “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word... Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” We must vote for leaders who love the Bible and allow it to direct their paths.



*“In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. Regard not the particular sect [party] of the candidate—look to his character... It is alleged by men of loose principles or defective views of the subject that religion and morality are not necessary or important qualifications for political stations. But the Scriptures teach a different doctrine. They direct that rulers should be men ‘who rule in the fear of God, able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness.’” (Exodus 18:21)*

**NOAH WEBSTER**

FATHER OF AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION

## DAY 4:

# We Vote to Expel Bad Leaders

“When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.” (Proverbs 29:2)

- ✓ **What would happen to your favorite sports team if they had a bad coach?**
- ✓ **Would you like being on a team with an evil leader?**

During the time of Queen Esther, God’s people were in great danger. A wicked leader named Haman had risen to power and was working for the destruction of the Jews. He even wrote a law ordering that they should all be killed. But God used Esther to rescue her people — even though doing so was very dangerous for her (Esther 4:16).

Whenever wicked people take power, innocent people suffer. In the Bible, the evil King Ahab and Queen Jazebel led the people of Israel to worship false gods. Because of their wickedness, God sent a three year drought on all the land (1 Kings 16:29-18:46). King Herod was so intent on keeping his kingdom, he had all the baby boys in Bethlehem under age two killed (Matthew 2:16-18). King Nebuchadnezzar threw three of his advisors into a fiery furnace because they would not bow to a statue of himself (Daniel 3).

Like those evil leaders, many sinful people will seek their own wealth and power, rather than submit to an Almighty God, and ultimately they hurt those they are leading. Sadly, many of our leaders today do not fear God or love His law. Thankfully, in the USA we still have the opportunity to choose our leaders, and each of us must, like Esther, rise up to oppose and remove wicked leaders as God gives us the opportunity. That is why each vote is essential.



*"If ever the time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin."*

**SAMUEL ADAMS**

FATHER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

## DAY 5:

# We Vote to Love Our Neighbors

“And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, ‘Which commandment is the most important of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’” (Mark 12:28-31)

✓ **How do you show love to yourself?**

✓ **How do you show love for someone else? What if they are far away from you?**

Loving our neighbor has two meanings for American voters: first, we direct our government to take care of all of its citizens. Second, we encourage our country to act as a good neighbor to the countries around us. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people” (Galatians 6:10).

America should be a friendly nation to the world, a place of peace and a refuge for oppressed. She should be a land of hope and an example of freedom and opportunity, not by being weak, but by being a strong force for good. One of the best ways to do this is

to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people of other nations who have never heard it before. And to share God's Word with them so they can understand how much God loves them and follow His commandments for the blessing of their own countries and people.

Throughout history wicked leaders have caused their countries to become aggressive and hostile towards their peaceful neighbors, like King Sennacherib of Assyria in 2 Kings 18, who led his vast army against Israel. And like the Moabites and Philistines who repeatedly plundered Israel whenever they had the chance (Judges & 1 Samuel). When a country has morality based on God's commands in the Bible, and when it has good servant-leaders, it will be a good neighbor and a blessing to the world. Our calling as believers is to love our neighbor as ourselves (act for the good of all), and part of the way we do that is to vote for the best, godly leaders we can. **Do Good. Go Vote.**



*"It should be the highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be co-extensive with the world, and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn."*

**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

1<sup>ST</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



## DAY 6:

# We Vote to Promote Just Laws

“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” (Amos 5:24)

- ✓ **Imagine you’re playing a game with friends. But there are two sets of rules, one for you and one for them. How would that make you feel?**
- ✓ **Have you ever been tempted to change the rules of a game to hurt your opponents and help yourself?**

*Justice* means treating everyone fairly and giving appropriate punishment when needed. Because justice is so very important to God, He created governments “to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good” (1 Peter 2:14).

After miraculously delivering His people out of slavery in Egypt, God entrusted His Law to them through Moses. God’s commandments required equal justice under the law. This meant no one was to get special treatment or different rules; it was fair for everyone. Everyone had the same opportunity to receive God’s blessings by following His laws.

The book of Judges shows how Israel was brought to the brink of destruction without leaders who would shepherd them spiritually



and uphold justice. When Israel stopped following God's commands for justice, God sent prophets like Amos to tell them how displeased He was with them.

All humans are born with a sinful nature, evil from the inside-out (Psalm 51:5), so there will always be a strong temptation to write bad laws that benefit oneself at the expense of others. In our own land unjust laws were passed that brought terrible pain and death in the forms of slavery and segregation. We must always vote for lawmakers who will write equal, fair, and just laws, and repeal any unjust laws.



*“Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, the people alone have an incontestable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter, or totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness require it.”*

**JOHN ADAMS, SAMUEL ADAMS, & JAMES BOWDOIN**  
CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## **DAY 7:**

# **We Vote to Promote Just Law Enforcement**

“You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 16:19-20)

✓ **Have you ever been treated unfairly?**

✓ **What did it feel like?**

Throughout the Bible, God shows that He is very zealous for the good character of those enforcing the law, such as police, judges, and executive officers. When soldiers came to John the Baptist, he told them not to steal money (Luke 3:14). Zacchaeus was a tax collector who used his power to take extra money from his people, but when he met Jesus, he was sorry for his sin and paid everyone back what he owed (Luke 19:8).

In our country, sinful actions by some law enforcement officers have led to great pain and hurt. And since the 1960s, judges have done great damage to our country by working to remove the Bible, the Ten Commandments, and prayer from schools and public places. Evil rulings by judges have also allowed the killing of over 46 million unborn babies.

As Christians we know law enforcement has been established

by God to protect the people and bring justice. We are forever grateful for those officers who serve our country, putting their own lives at risk. Without their service, our society would collapse.

Any judge, policeman, or prosecutor who is not God-honoring can do tremendous harm to people's lives and to the whole country. If they mistreat anyone or show favoritism, they should be punished or removed.

Fortunately, many judges and law enforcement leaders are elected to their positions, so we have the ability to directly choose godly men and women for those jobs. Other judges are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. This makes it even more important to elect to those positions virtuous leaders who will then appoint godly judges to bring true justice to our land.



*“All must admit that the reception of the teaching of Christ results in the purest patriotism, in the most scrupulous fidelity to public trust, and in the best type of citizenship. Those who manage the affairs of government are by this means reminded that the law of God demands that they should be courageously true to the interest of the people, and that the Ruler of the universe will require of them a strict account of their stewardship.”*

**GROVER CLEVELAND**

22<sup>ND</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

**DAY 8:**

# **We Vote to Protect Against Deceitful Leaders**

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

- ✓ **If someone said they wanted to be friends with you, but didn’t treat you well, how would that make you feel?**
- ✓ **If you said you loved your pet, but didn’t take care of it, would that really be love?**

Many leaders *claim* to love people, but how can we tell if they really do, or if they are simply trying to secure their own power? Proverbs 31:31 uses the test, “Give her of the fruit of her hands” (the reward of her actions), and Jesus said in Matthew 7:20, “you will recognize them by their fruits.” We evaluate a leader based on their *actions*, not their words, because actions are far more significant than words. These actions are the “fruit” they produce with their lives.

If a leader wants to show that they love their people, we should be able to see clear ways that they have worked to benefit and help those under their care. These servant-leaders will always promote justice and righteousness for their people (John 10:10-11). For any government, taking care of the people means encouraging families to stay together, protecting all human life, creating an

economy that makes it easy for people to work and create jobs, and providing a place where people can worship God freely. It means that judges, police, and lawmakers don't show favoritism but instead treat everyone equally and fairly, protecting our God-given rights.

C.S. Lewis expressed in his famous *Trilemma* that, by looking at

his actions, we can judge whether Jesus Christ was either the Lord, a Liar, or a Lunatic. We must also be discerning about our political leaders. Cities like Detroit, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles have been ravaged by crime and poverty — this is bad fruit indeed! The



leaders who have been in charge of those cities have not been helping their people. Instead they have either been too foolish to recognize that their plans are hurtful (Lunatic), or they have been intentionally keeping people poor and in danger (Liar). This is also true for any leader who insists on executing harmful policies. We must vote to remove those leaders and those ideas.

*“Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature.”*

**JAMES GARFIELD**

20<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

## DAY 9:

# We Vote to Protect Life

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.” (Psalm 139:13-16)

✓ **Have you ever made a wonderful piece of art?**

✓ **How would you feel if someone else destroyed it?**

Children are precious to the Lord, and each one is His masterpiece. You, [child’s name], are a wondrous, beautiful piece of His craftsmanship! God made you and He loves you so much!

Jesus loved children and spent special time with them. In Matthew 19:14 he said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

Every human life has immeasurable value, but tragically, the unborn are no longer being protected by our government. We grieve the loss of each child, and we long for the day when they will again be protected as the priceless treasures they are. Until then we must vote for leaders who will stand strong to defend the life of every person, born and unborn.

They cannot speak for themselves or defend themselves in any way; only we can act on their behalf. Jesus gave a sermon in Matthew 18 on children stating, “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven... So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”



*“American law was clear. As soon as it was known that there was life in the womb, at that point, that life was protected by law, for the purpose of government was to protect all unalienable rights, including that of life. In the Founders day, they recognized that there was a right to life in the womb.”*

**DAVID BARTON**  
HISTORIAN, WALLBUILDERS.COM

**DAY 10:**

# **We Vote to Protect Against Hurtful Policies**

“Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.” (Ephesians 4:28)

- ✓ **How would you feel if someone took what belonged to you?**
- ✓ **Have you ever worked to earn money? How did it make you feel to be paid for your work?**

Think carefully about the apostle Paul's instructions to the church in Ephesians 4:28. He charges them not to steal what belongs to someone else, to work to make a living, and to share with those in need.

God has a plan for how societies work best. He has shared this wisdom with us throughout the Bible. First of all, He wants everyone to love Him, to be virtuous (do what is right and obey His law), and obey the laws set by our government (1 Peter 2). Then He wants *families* to educate their children on God's Word, to care for each other, and to be generous and charitable to those in need (Deuteronomy 6:7; Galatians 6:9-10). When this happens, everyone is taken care of, and God receives the glory for blessing His people through their obedience to Him.

But not every government system allows God's good plan to unfold. Socialism and Communism are two examples of



government systems that oppose the Bible's teaching. Both hold that it is wrong to earn and save money for oneself, and that everything should belong to everyone. These beliefs are contrary to Scripture (Proverbs 10:4). They teach that people must be forced to "give" what they earn until everyone has the same amount. Of course, this isn't *giving* at all — giving can only be done out of a heart full of God's love, and not by force (2 Corinthians 9:7). Both systems also undermine the role of parents, saying that the government should be in charge of educating children, instead of their families (Proverbs 22:6).



Ultimately Socialism and Communism attempt to replace God with government, which is always doomed to failure because of the selfish and sinful human hearts that gain undue power as a result (Jeremiah 17:9). Not surprisingly, these kinds of anti-God systems lead to widespread death, poverty, and misery. That is why we must vote to support leaders who will guide our country towards the wisdom of following God's Word.

*"Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties. Write its precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book are we indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future. Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people (Proverbs 14:34)."*

**ULYSSES S. GRANT**  
18<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

## DAY 11:

# We Vote to Honor Those Who Went Before Us

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:12-13)

✓ **Who are your heroes?**

✓ **Why are they important to you?**

Nathan Hale was a schoolteacher who was born in 1755. At 20 years old he joined the Revolutionary army to fight for freedom. One year later he was captured behind enemy lines and hanged without a trial. Before he was executed Hale said, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

Freedom comes at a very high price. Nathan Hale and countless other brave men and women have willingly, lovingly laid down their lives to protect our country and ensure our freedom. We vote to honor them and preserve that for which they sacrificed.

From *The Fallen Soldier* by Jocko Willink:

*Remember me. I was a warrior... But also remember that I was not only a warrior... I was a son, a brother, a father. I was a daughter, a sister, a mother. I was a person, like you, a real person with hopes and dreams for the future... I wanted to have children. I wanted to see my son score a touchdown or shoot the winning basket. I wanted to walk my daughter down the aisle. I wanted to kiss my wife again... But I gave all that away... All of it... On that distant*

*battlefield, amongst the fear and the fire and the bullets...*

*I did not waver and I did not hesitate. I, the soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine. I stood my ground and sacrificed my life—my future, my hopes, my dreams. I sacrificed everything—for you... And remember me not for my sake, but for yours. Remember what I sacrificed so you can truly appreciate the incredible treasures you have: Life. Liberty. The pursuit of happiness... You have the joys of life—the joys that I gave up so that you can relish in them: a cool wind in the air...the gentle spring grass on your bare feet...the warm summer sun on your face.*

*Family. Friends. And freedom. Never forget where it all came from. It came from sacrifice—the supreme sacrifice. Live a life that honors us, the fallen heroes.*



*“The liberties of our country, the freedoms of our civil Constitution are worth defending at all hazards; it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors. They purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood. It will bring a mark of everlasting infamy on the present generation – enlightened as it is – if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of designing men.”*

**SAMUEL ADAMS**  
FATHER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**DAY 12:**

# **We Vote to Love Our Country**

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

✓ **Why do your parents feed you and take care of you?**

✓ **Who is your best friend? What would you do if they were in trouble?**

Our country was founded on God’s principles. John Adams said “The general principles upon which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.” Andrew Jackson added “The Bible is the rock on which our Republic rests.” And Billy Graham put it this way: “If America is to survive, we must elect more God-centered men and women to public office — individuals who will seek Divine guidance in the affairs of state.”

To *love* something is to take action to care for it, to feed and protect it (Ephesians 5:29). Noah Webster defined *patriotism* as “love of one’s country; the passion which aims to serve one’s country, either in defending it from invasion, or protecting its rights and maintaining its laws and institutions in vigor and purity.

Patriotism is the characteristic of a good citizen, the noblest passion that animates a man in the character of a citizen.”

Patriotism is not a set of feelings or the occasional celebration of our country; like love, it requires action! If we love our country, we will vote for its protection and its righteousness. We must vote for leaders who will continue to enact Biblical principles in our government.

Without Judeo-Christian principles as the basis for our laws, our country as founded cannot survive.



*“To the kindly influence of Christianity we owe that degree of civil freedom and political and social happiness which mankind now enjoys. All efforts made to destroy the foundations of our Holy Religion ultimately tend to the subversion also of our political freedom and happiness. In proportion as the genuine effects of Christianity are diminished in any nation... in the same proportion will the people of that nation recede from the blessings of genuine freedom... Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government – and all the blessings which flow from them – must fall with them.”*

**JEDIDIAH MORSE**

FATHER OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY

## DAY 13:

# Vote to Demonstrate Faith with Works

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)

- ✓ **Have you ever help someone in need? What did you do for them?**
- ✓ **What can you do to show God that you love Him, more than just saying that you love Him?**

The Bible is full of wonderful promises that give us peace and confidence for life. God has promised never to leave us or forsake us and to meet all of our needs (Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:19). He cares for us, and He is fully sovereign over what happens in the world (Daniel 4:34-35).

“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Over and over again in Scripture God commands us to take courage because He is the one in control, and we can trust Him because He loves us. God wants His people to confess their sins, to pray for spiritual revival, and to ask Him in faith to heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

But James says its not enough to just trust God and have faith in Him. We are also called to do the good works He has commanded and prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). So we vote as an act of faith *and* obedience, never putting our trust solely in our human leaders. We vote with confidence that our votes matter because God is using us to accomplish His plans, and He is ultimately in charge.

*“Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against*

*us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave... The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH!”*



**PATRICK HENRY**

THE VOICE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

## DAY 14:

# We Vote Because Not Voting is Foolish

“The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.” (Proverbs 13:4)

- ✓ **Have you ever been tempted to skip doing a hard job?**
- ✓ **Why do you think some people don't vote? Are those good reasons or excuses?**

There are many excuses made for why Christians don't vote...

1. “It's too hard,” or “I don't have time.” This is merely laziness, since it only takes a few hours for a few days a year to vote and have a say in our national governance. God calls this unacceptable behavior *foolishness*, and says it will always bring disaster. Consider how hard the ant works, repent, and be wise! (Proverbs 6:6)
2. “I don't need to vote, God will put into office whomever He wants.” This stems from false Bible teaching, and is another form of laziness. By this same false logic, no one should ever study, ever help someone in need, ever tithe, or ever do anything virtuous. Yes, God is able to accomplish His will entirely without us, and He does not need us, but God chooses to work through us, and He calls us to hold our government accountable to righteousness. If we do not follow His commands, we are sinning



in disobedience. “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin” (James 4:17).

3. “There is no one good enough on the ballot.” Be careful: Jesus Christ is never going to run for office (on the contrary, when he returns, he will do so as a conquering King), so everyone you ever vote for will be a sinner. We are not looking for *perfect* leaders, we are looking for capable, virtuous, servant-hearted leaders. If there is no one with godly character on the ballot, perhaps you need to run, or encourage able, godly believers to run for office.

Our founders knew full well that *godliness is the most essential characteristic required for public service*, not money or credentials or connections. Little shepherd David’s brothers never thought he was qualified to fight the giant, Goliath. Yet the people were in desperate need of someone to stand up in the LORD’s name and fight for them! Davy Crockett served honorably as a godly congressman, when he only had a minimal education. If God assigns you the task of serving in public office, He will also equip you to do so (Hebrews 13:20-21).

4. “I don’t know who to vote for.” It is sad that a Christian would say this, when we have a duty to be informed of the goings-on of our government, and when there are entire

ministries devoted to educating and equipping believers in this area. Ask your church leaders, visit [MyFaithVotes.org](http://MyFaithVotes.org), or speak with other Christian ministries that can help you be informed.

5. “Church isn’t supposed to be involved in Politics.” This excuse



comes from the false notion that there is a difference between religious issues and political ones. *Politics* are the outgrowth of personal beliefs — beliefs that reflect the very core of who we are and what we value, so there is *no* distinction between political and spiritual ideas. We believe the Bible should direct our thinking in every idea, no matter the question. Because it speaks Truth as it touches each topic, the only rock-solid answer to any issue will be what God recommends in His Word.

These excuses for not voting are thin cover-ups for laziness and foolishness. In Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew 25 we learn that God will hold us accountable for what He has given us; He expects us to do the best we can while we are here on earth, and this is being a *good steward* of what He has entrusted to us. One day we will stand before Him: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." (2 Corinthians 5:10) And we hope to hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21).

As faithful servants, we vote as good stewards of our family, our neighbors, and our country.

*"If the citizens neglect their Duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the Laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizen will be violated or disregarded."*

**NOAH WEBSTER**

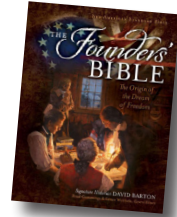
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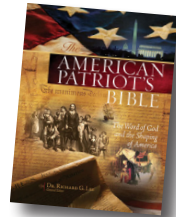
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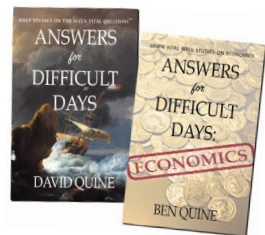
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“We recognize no sovereign but God, and no King but Jesus.”

**JOHN ADAMS**

2<sup>ND</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Pray for our country.  
Pray for our leaders.  
Vote for godly leaders.

God bless America, land that I love,  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with a light from above.  
From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans white with foam,  
God bless America,  
My home sweet home.

**by Irving Berlin**

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