

ELECTION

Week of November 22, 2020 – How to Keep from Being Fooled by Politicians

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

When the political stakes are high, it's hard to know who to follow and what to believe. Join us as we reflect, respond and pray through our "Election" series and together see politics through the eyes of God. Whether in community or through personal reflection, answer **one or more** of the following questions to live out what we're learning on the weekends. Remember...it's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through YOU!

1. Begin with Gratitude: In a season with so much change and uncertainty, it's more important than ever to keep our hearts and minds fixed on the hope we have in Jesus. Although our circumstances may look and feel different than we like, there is always something to be grateful for.

"Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 CEB

God doesn't tell us to "rejoice always" just so we'll cheer up. He tells us to rejoice + pray + give thanks SO THAT we take our eyes off ourselves and put them on Him. Tell God what you're grateful for. Then pray. Ask Him to shift your perspective, give you a heart of gratitude and help you to trust Him in every situation.

2. The REAL Truth: With so many opinions, truth can feel hard to find. The good news...as followers of Jesus, we don't rely on politicians, popular culture and the news media to deliver our truth. Our truest truth is found in God's word, and our pursuit of His truth must become a personal discipline. It's when we learn to filter everything through God's word that we are equipped and prepared to do what is right.

"But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you...All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:14,16-17

- Who are your sources for truth? How do you test their trustworthiness?
- God's word is useful – how do you allow it to teach you what is true and make you realize what is wrong?
- In what ways would you like to grow in your personal discipline of seeking God's truth SO THAT you are prepared and equipped for every good work?

3. Before You Decide: Pastor Matt cautioned us to be wise, not rash, in our decision making. It's when we take the time to seek God, ask Him for wisdom and follow His lead, that He blesses our decisions.

"To make rash, hasty decisions shows that you are not trusting the Lord. But when you rely totally on God, you will still act carefully and prudently." Proverbs 28:25 TPT

"If anyone longs to be wise, ask God for wisdom and he will give it! He won't see your lack of wisdom as an opportunity to scold you over your failures but he will overwhelm your failures with his generous grace." James 1:5

- What does it look like for you to seek God in your decision making?
- Consider a time your "lack of wisdom" led to a less than ideal decision. What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about God?
- God gives grace in our mistakes, so that when we know better, we do better. How has what you've learned from past mistakes impacted the way you seek God in your decisions now? If it hasn't, how can you do better?

We are grateful for YOU! From all of us at Cultivate, we wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry and your continued commitment to growing spiritually wise in our community of kindness. ♥