

VOTE -- TUESDAY -- 2 NOVEMBER

Perhaps we had better first of all apologize to the many outside the United States receiving this article via e-mail. It is basically directed to the citizens of voting age within the USA -- BUT -- it may be a wake-up call for those of other nations when it comes your turn to elect your leaders as well.

Try as we may -- we could not come up with any direct Scripture verses on the subject. However, there are many warnings dealing with the matter of speaking out through the ballot box.

First thing that comes to mind concerning voting for a candidate to public office is God's Ninth Commandment -- "*You shall not bear false witness*" (Exodus 20:16) which in simple English says -- DO NOT LIE! Too often politicians veer very far from the Truth -- making claims and promises that in many cases they have no way, desire or intention of keeping if and when elected.

Another item is the word "diligent" -- "*Let us therefore be diligent . . . lest anyone fall after the example of disobedience*" (Hebrews 4:11). To be diligent is to do the right thing ALL the time -- to be trustworthy -- to keep on the right track regardless of some easier way out. Elected Public Office holders should set the example for others to follow.

Then we find the word "accounted" -- "*Just as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness*" (Galatians 3:6). To be accounted is to indicate trustworthiness, honesty, and dependability.

This portion of Scripture also brings out the word "righteousness" -- which means -- acting justly, virtuous, morally right, and morally justifiable.

Also we find another very important word, "integrity" -- which means -- completeness, unimpaired condition, soundness, honesty. "*The integrity of the upright will guide them -- but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them*" (Proverbs 11:3).

So when we get back to our title of "Voting" we must be sure of the candidate before we make our mark by his name. We must not blindly follow a Political

Party or the candidate that we feel will benefit us personally, nor to be intimidated -- but rather we must put aside everything but what is the very best for our fellow man, our nation, our future generations, and for our world.

Just one more thought in the matter, the word "honorable" -- which means -- "worthy of being honored, honest, upright. It seems almost daily another official has fallen to greed, sex, or some other dishonorable deed.

These may escape the judgment of our Political systems -- but, there will come a day when they will stand before the Righteous Judge and their evil deeds will be made known and just punishment will be served.

Voting is a privilege, it is an honor, it is a duty -- every legally registered citizen has this right and should be diligent in performing it.

It is estimated that this week only about one-third of the eligible voters will exercise this opportunity -- shame on us -- over half the worlds population does not have this right and would give their very lives to be heard.

Don't let anything hinder your getting to the polls and casting your vote. Remember -- IT IS A GOD-GIVEN PRIVILEGE! -- and opportunity to bring our country back to what it was originally founded on.

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for more information contact -- Pastor Bruce R. Burke --

OPEN BIBLE MINISTRIES

Lake Ariel, PA 18436 -- Phone 570-698-7890

E-mail openbiblemin@verizon.net -- Web www.obmworthitall.org