

## What Do You Believe... and Why?

By Wayne Vasilenko

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The time of this writing is June 2019; my wife and I have been discussing current events and their relationship to the bible. Although this is a common occurrence in our house, we have recently been concentrating on the frustrations people (including ourselves) experience, especially those who claim to be Christians, in regards to current events. Over time, we all have witnessed the degradation of our society and of the church as well, we have seen people, especially the young, manipulated by the use of carefully orchestrated propaganda, eagerly provided by a politically controlled media as well as sinister spiritual influences that are always at work. The civilization of the world seems to be unraveling before our eyes, and it seems as though there is nothing we can do about it as many Christians pray daily for our government and our society in general, only to become frustrated and eventually apathetic because of not seeing any evidence of positive change. Eventually their faith begins to falter and soon gives way to depression. If left unchecked, many people simply give up, some turning their backs on Government and eventually God who in their opinion does not seem to care. Many will say, "Why Vote it makes no difference!"

I have brought up the issue of apathy in the past and have labeled it as one of Satan's most effective tools. How do we keep a positive attitude when it seems that "all is for naught" concerning our efforts to bring change to our world or within our families, our churches, or society in general? No one is exempt from these feelings and emotions – no one is exempt from becoming apathetic, not even church leaders and pastors! To address this issue it is necessary to explore the causes of the issue. However, before doing that we all should consider what we ourselves believe, and why we believe it. We are now at the beginning of presidential campaign cycle for the 2020 election year. We are hearing daily the latest Poll results and all of the complaints and promises; the same complaints and promises we have heard as long as I can remember. One person says this – the other says that... once again, whom do you believe and more importantly "Why?" What criteria do you use when putting your belief and your support towards one person over another, one news report over another, one political party over another? What do you use as your standard when you make such a decision? Many people simply go by their personal feelings, or they favor the path of least resistance, in this case whatever has the least affect on their personal feelings pertaining to their own moral standards or social beliefs. Everyone has a right to their own opinions however, if you claim to be a "Christian" there are certain expectations concerning your moral beliefs and behavior. After all, A Christian is one who claims to be a Christ Follower, which is what the title Christian implies. So if you claim to be a Christ Follower shouldn't you be following the teachings of Jesus Christ? How do your beliefs and opinions stack up against the teachings of Jesus and the Bible? How does your favored political party platform stack up to the teachings of Jesus and the Bible?

The two major political parties in the United States have vast differences as far as their stated beliefs concerning social and moral issues. These issues are all addressed in the Bible, in detail in most cases, therefore if you claim to be a Christ Follower, it is very important that you know what God's Word says concerning the issues brought out by these political parties and the people running for office that are representing these parties. It is also prudent to do this before you commit your support to any of them. When you see the word "Believe" in the Bible, you have to consider how the word is defined in the Bible in light of the original languages at the time it was written. In the Bible, the word "Believe" means Cling to, rely on, have faith in, to trust in. So again I ask the question, "How to their "Beliefs" line up with yours, and how do your beliefs line up with the Word of God?" Do you trust what you see and hear, do you rely on what you see and hear? Do you have faith in what you see and hear from the mouths of our politicians?

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Most people use the word “Believe” in the sense that they generally acknowledge something as being true or real. This is usually without too much regard to the reasoning behind their belief whatever it may concern. For example, one person might say that they believe what they hear on CNN over other news sources, while another might say the same concerning FOX News. The question is, “Why does someone favor one news source over another, and what do they base their credibility on... what do **you** personally base their credibility on?” This question is far more important than most realize! Consider the words of Jesus:

### Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV)

<sup>21</sup> Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

You may feel good about yourself, you may feel comfortable with your beliefs concerning God and morality; you may be a relatively “Good Person,” you may be “Religious!” However, what this passage of scripture is saying is that there is more to a relationship with God than what people see on the outside. Likewise, there is more to what politicians say while trying to win your vote. Jesus is saying that even people who appear to be good and worshipers of God may be laboring in vain; He is saying that many people put their belief and their faith in things that God considers trivial or perhaps even worthless! Before you do things in the “Name of God,” it is important to find out if those things are in line with the Word of God. How does this all relate to the upcoming elections, and to whom you will give your support? Living in the so-called “Age of Information” can be confusing. We are being constantly bombarded with information, so much so that we tend to not pay much attention to the sources of all the information. How many people simply base their political or religious stance on what agrees with their general feeling or opinions rather than seeking to find out the sources of the information they see or hear? How many people pay little or no attention to the “Track Record” of politicians and their political parties?

The “Black Community” in America is a prime example of a large group of people that blindly supports one political party over another. Before you might label me as a “Racist” for making that statement, let me inform you that many of my friends and many of my neighbors are “African Americans” so please don’t go there. The fact is that for decades Black Americans have favored one political party over the other without regard to the history and the “track record” of that particular party. This is in part due to our educational system that no longer teaches history, but rather has fallen victim to infiltration by socialist and communist inspired people who seek to destroy America and our way of life. This is “the simple truth!” Most young adults in the Black Community don’t have a clue as to the truth concerning all the issues that attract them to their favored political party, and they have no idea that the same political party has done more to harm them than to help them. This also applies to young adults of other ethnicities as well. Our children are being fed a steady diet of false or tainted information and most are too lazy to explore their sources for accuracy on their own. Most just go along with the flow. As we continue this study, we will do just that... Explore! We will state some of the **Hot Political Issues**, and compare them to the Bible and the platforms of the political parties. It is my hope, this will cause everyone to search their own hearts and become aware of the truth before it is time to cast their vote. It is time that people who call themselves Christian vote according to the teachings that they profess to be the truth. This promises to be an interesting study.