

## Reflections on the Election

Tony Evans, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship

We have come through a very turbulent weekend. It has become clear that, if we didn't know it before, we know it now, of how divided we are as a nation.

Politically we are divided. Racially we are divided. Class wise, we're divided. Culturally we're divided. Gender wise, we are divided.

And this election has brought that up at an enormously high level. What concerns me is that I hear Christians being as divided as the world. I can't control what the non-believing does or does not do.

But when people of faith get caught up it means we still don't get it. So let me start with the premise: "everything visible and physical is preceded by that which is invisible and spiritual."

So if you want to address the visible, physical issues, you must address the invisible, spiritual reality behind it. Because if you miss that, you've missed the root and you're picking at the fruit.

And all of these things that are trying to solve all these dilemmas are fruit picking, not root addressing.

So, let's get something straight about elections. The bible says that God puts up kings and tears kings down. So your vote whoever you voted for is never the final say so. The final so-say is what God either causes or allows.

Now, you are to vote. I am to vote. We are to participate, but heaven rules. Nebuchadnezzar had to learn that. Daniel said, heaven rules earth. And if you don't understand that, then you're going to get all shook up about not liking something on earth when heaven is sitting behind it. Now what goes into God's decisions about what He allows, yes our participation, but also what goes into is whether he's allowing it for blessing or for judgement.

Because He allows what he allows either, to bring blessing, or bring judgement. But one thing is inextricably clear according to Hebrews chapter 12 and that is God allows things to get shaken, the author of Hebrews says, to reveal His unshakeable kingdom.

So, regardless of which way you voted God has created a gap that the church needs to take advantage of. Because how do we expect them to get along out there if we can't get along in here [the Church].

However you voted, whether democrat or republican, or write in independent, God doesn't ride the backs of Donkey's or Elephants. However you voted you are bound to be living like a kingdom man or kingdom woman, for the advancement of the kingdom of God. So our job is to demonstrate what it looks like when people of God represent the King. Not the president, the King. In how we act, react, talk. When you see some of the things people are saying. Some of the attitude being displayed and then attach God's name to it! It's a contradiction.

Now there may be racism out there, but there's not going to be any racism in here [the church].

Not.up.in.here!

Because we represent another kingdom. There may be classism out there, but no classism in the church. No big “I’s” and little “you’s” in the church.

Our job is to represent the kingdom of God and to call God’s people to do the same because this is spiritual. It manifests itself politically, but this is spiritual. Much to President Obama’s credit he set the tone in his address after the election, when he said, speaking politically, we are not first democrats or republicans, we are Americans. And he said we’re going to wish the best for the President elect.

The bible says, honour the king and the King he told them to honour was Nero and he was horrible, but you honour the position even if you disagree with the person.

And just like President Obama was dishonoured in many, many ways and that dishonour should be rejected, any dishonour of the position, even though we must address individual issues with the person, is unbiblical, unchristian and is evil.

So do not let anyone hear coming out of your mouth dishonour even though you may express disagreement because you represent the King. You represent Jesus Christ. And so whether as an individual and what you say and how you interact, and react. What you train your children to think and to do. You saw some of the violence out there, it’s just unspeakable.

We have the right to protest, but we only have the right to protest to the help of others, not to the hurt of others. Then in the church people know when they walk through this door, they are embraced and welcomed if they hold firm to the Lord Jesus and if they don’t we want to introduce them, regardless of race, colour or culture. Then in our community people ought to see when you step out in your job or in your school, or wherever you are, that you are kingdom citizen.

A kingdom citizen is a man or woman who is fully committed to Jesus Christ and their commitment to Christ seeks to bring heavenly principles into earth’s concerns.

That’s what we do, we bring heaven to bare on it. We don’t just replicate what everybody else is saying. Presidents come and go, there’s only one King that stays on the throne. So it is absolutely critical during this day of chaos and confusion that you go out of your way, that we go out of our way. The bible says, Galatians 6:10, “Do good to all man as you have opportunity, especially to the household of faith.

So rather than fuss and cuss, cry and create havoc, let our good works speak for us. Let people see that we represent God’s house.

Cause, trust me God’s not going to skip the church house to fix the Whitehouse.

He always sorts with his people, Ephesians 3:10, says he works through the church to deal with the principalities and the powers...be conscious to do good works...we’re here to make things better, not just stir mess this up.

You represent the king of kinds, and yes, fight for your political position, but fight righteously and truthfully and with love and kindness, not vitriol. So in this chaos voices of reason, on your job, wherever you are, voice of reason, with truth and with love need to step forth. These are dark days, with great opportunity; if we take advantage of it as the people of God.