

Seven Truths For the Church In This Election Season

This past Thursday Beverly and I took a day trip up to Boone to enjoy the fall colors and the town. We missed the peak of the leaves turning but it was still a great little trip. We were walking on what I call main street and we crossed paths with a Vietnam vet who was setting up his display of conservative and Republican paraphernalia on the street where all the restaurants and shops are located. I saw his vet sticker on the rear window of his little red truck, so I stopped just to thank him for his service. He saw my vet's cap and started up a conversation that went straight to the weird and bizarre. He let us know that he believed in God and country and hated what is happening to our nation. We talked with him just to see what else he had in mind with his display and he pretty much said that if Trump doesn't win, then he knows lots of Vietnam vets who are ready to take up arms to defeat the winner by force. He was just blowin' smoke and the guy obviously had a mental challenge to deal with, or not.

We decided to have lunch at a great little quaint restaurant called Mocado's and the food was really good. I would go back. And, no, we didn't make it to the Dan'l Boone Inn this trip. I've been there before and the food there is out of this world and so much of it. We'll do that our next trip.

But just after we ordered our food, Beverly remembered that we needed to put more money in the parking meter and so I walked all the way back to where we had parked and just as I was about to put my card in the meter a rather large gentleman wearing an American flag/Trump t-shirt came up behind me and started a conversation that turned out as weird as my earlier conversation with the vet.

Listen, this guy said he had seen my Vietnam vet stickers on my car earlier that day and was hoping he could catch me just to talk politics. He must have been watching my car the whole time waiting to see if I would show up anytime soon. He reminded me of the other man we had talked with that morning. He was talking about rebelling against our government if Biden and Harris won. **I was standing there waiting for one of us to leave.** I didn't care which one it was, I just wanted to

get back to my sane and sober wife and enjoy having lunch with her. I did and we enjoyed it and didn't speak to anyone else the rest of the day.

Beloved, our nation is already irreparably divided without some kooks making it worse. They clearly have no knowledge of the word of God and who is ultimately in charge of this dark and dying world.

Seven truths I want us to remember during this challenging election cycle.

First, God is sovereign in all the earth. I point this out because it's easy to look at our world and see nothing but chaos and confusion. This really is a ball of confusion. Except for those who are in Christ and walking and living by the Spirit. The Bible says we have an anointing and we know who is ultimately in charge, who is Lord, and how all this is going to turn out. Amen?

Second, Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God. And how do we know that? Solely by the grace and revelation of the Holy Spirit. "Blessed are you, church of God, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to us but our Father who is in heaven." If you believe that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of the living God, you are born of the Spirit.

Third, Jesus Christ is Lord and God raised Him from the dead. We do not go through the Apostle's Creed or the Nicene Creed here at Eastway, but we do have this confession that identifies us as those who belong to God. We confess that Jesus is Lord and we believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead.

Fourth, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through faith in Him. It's called "the narrow way." We are labeled "exclusivists" because we believe that Jesus is the exclusive way to heaven. Our neighbors in the mainline denominations have become universalists unitarians in practice if not in name. They have bought Satan's lie that there are many ways to heaven, Jesus is just one of the many. We know that is a lie from the pit of hell, as we say.

Fifth, hatred and anarchy have no place in the body of Christ. There are few things I have encountered since becoming a Christian and then a pastor who believes and preaches the word of God like the way

hatred has been nourished within the doors of the visible church. The apostle John warns very powerfully that no one who hates is saved. Satan and the more vile people of our day want us to hate those with whom we disagree or those of different skin color. But Jesus said that those who hate are guilty of murder and we know that no murderer has any part in the body of Christ.

Sixth, unless one is born of the Spirit and has the Spirit, you do not belong to Christ. And it's that simple. *you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.* (Rom. 8:9 NAU)

And there's a remedy to not having the Spirit. It is applied by the grace of God opening our hearts and our minds to believe in Jesus as the One who died for our sins and to make us right with God. We apply His work of grace by calling on the name of the Lord to forgive us and to make us right with God.

Last week I was fishing in my favorite little lake and the mosquitoes were feasting on my ankles. I didn't realize it until I got home and was sitting on the sofa. I sat there scratching the bites and Beverly handed me a tube of ointment made to relieve itching. After I applied it, I didn't think about the itch anymore. That's because the ointment was doing what it was designed to do. Beverly later asked me if the ointment was working and I was a little surprised because I had forgotten all about the bites. So I told her, "It must be."

And **seventh** and finally, we can live our daily lives in accordance with the word of God and enjoy this life the way God intended.

A great number of people who profess faith in Jesus have had it drummed into their heads that God is an ogre who does not want us to enjoy anything. They are afraid of God in the wrong way. They are afraid that if something is pleasurable, like a good meal or time at the beach or a ride up to the mountains or retirement, if we enjoy those things, we have sinned. And that, beloved, is another lie from the pit of hell. Read this, ⁷ *Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to*

be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

¹⁸ *Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, especially during October, which is?*

¹⁹ *storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

(1 Tim. 6:17-19 NAU)

We are coming down to the wire. The elections are just around the corner. 8 days to the day Americans will turn out to vote for an array of people running for this office and that office. The early voter turnout taken with the mail in ballots and the absentee voting for president has been mind-blowing for our nation's poll workers and elected officials. 57 million people had voted early the last time I checked. It's being called an "avalanche" and "unprecedented."

Our country isn't ready for what is going to happen on November 3. My prayer is that we will be prepared for the outcome and its consequences. And that's a scary thought. There are millions of people who will not like the results and there may be more violence.

I close with this, **Titus 3:1** *Remind them, those in Christ, to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,*

² *to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. (Tit. 3:1-2 NAU)*

Beloved, if you believe what we have examined this morning, we have nothing to fear either before or after this upcoming election.

What am I going to do if my candidate doesn't win? The same thing I have been doing before he lost, trusting God and not our government.

God is neither a Republican nor a Democrat. He is separate and sovereign and impartial. And I can live with that.