



“Living Out Our Vote” | Citizens

Matthew 5:13-20

Pastor Jordan Hansen

“If I Were The Devil”: A Warning to America From Paul Harvey, 1965

“If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I’d want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I’d have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn’t be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee.

So I’d set about however necessary to take over the United States. I’d subvert the churches first — I’d begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: ‘Do as you please.

To the young, I would whisper that ‘The Bible is a myth.’ I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what’s bad is good, and what’s good is ‘square.’ And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, ‘Our Father, which art in Washington...

And then I’d get organized. I’d educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I’d threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I’d pedal narcotics to whom I could. I’d sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I’d tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil I’d soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I’d have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you’d have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

Within a decade I’d have prisons overflowing, I’d have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I’d make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the devil I’d take from those who have, and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I’d just keep right on doing what he’s doing.”

Paul Harvey, good day.” - Paul Harvey, Speech was broadcast by ABC Radio on April 3, 1965

MAIN QUESTIONS:

How do we vote?

How do we INFLUENCE our nation for GOOD?

Matthew record the sermon on the Mount in chapters 5-8. Jesus is preaching his own catechesis...a lofty and idealist perspective of where and how to set our aim. Jesus knew what we were created for...and he was reminding us that we have gotten far too comfortable with all of the ways we have compromised...

Mt. 5:13-16: 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by people.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

1. We are the salt of the Earth & the light of the world.

- A. Salt is a preservation agent.
- B. Light helps people see.
- C. When we lose our influence...we've lost our purpose.
 - **Historically...the church has changed the world:**
 - Hill, Jonathan. *What Has Christianity Ever Done for Us? How It Shaped the Modern World.*
 - Schmidt, Alvin J. *How Christianity Changed the World.*
 - How?→Individual transformation, the sanctity of human life, an elevated sexual morality, women receiving freedom & dignity, charity & compassion, hospitals & health care, imprint on education, labor & economic freedom dignified, the christian roots of science, liberty and justice for all, slavery abolished, stamp on art & architecture, music, literature, holidays, words, symbols, & expressions.
 - Christianity has CHANGED the world we live in FOR THE BETTER.
 - Stark, Rodney. *America's Blessing: How Religion Benefits Everyone, Including Atheists.*
 - Religious Americans much less likely to commit crimes, to give of their finances and volunteer, enjoy superior mental health (far less likely to commit suicide), live longer (7 years), husbands far less likely to abuse their wives, enjoy their sex lives more, students perform better on standardized tests, less likely to drop out of school (esp. true of Hispanic and African American), get better jobs and less likely to be on welfare, more likely to enjoy "high culture," & less likely to believe in Bigfoot, UFO's, Atlantis, ghosts, haunted houses, & astrology. . .
 - I'm from Washington State. . . & im pretty sure Bigfoot exists.

Mt. 5:17-20: 17 "Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.** 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law, until all is accomplished! 19 Therefore, whoever nullifies one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 "For I say to you that **unless your righteousness far surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.**

2. God's Law is GOOD & has eternal significance.

- A. **3 types of Law: Moral, Ceremonial, & Civil**
 - **Moral:** Universal applicable for eternity - The 10 Commandments for example.
 - **Ceremonial:** Rituals, Feasts, religious regulations. Jesus fulfilled the this Law.
 - **Civil:** Israel as a nation: Justice, Order, "love your neighbor as yourself. . ." - Principles still applicable.
- B. **God will judges individuals & nations for breaking God's Law.**
 - **Moral Decay in Sodom & Gomorrah:** Gen. 19
 - **Pride & Arrogance in Edom:** Obadiah 1:3-4
 - **Violence & Bloodshed Ninevah:** Nahum 3:1
 - **Child Sacrifice in Canaan & Eventually Israel:** Psalm 106:37-38
 - **Sexual Immorality & Pride in Moab:** Jeremiah 48:42-44 & Isaiah 16:6
 - **Greed & Commercial Exploitation in Tyre:** Isaiah 23:11-12
 - **Lack of Compassion & Cruelty in Ammon:** Amos 1:13
 - **Dishonesty & Corruption in Babylon:** Jeremiah 51:7
 - **Idolatry in the N. Kingdom:** Exodus 20:3-5
 - **Unfaithfulness & False Worship in the N. Kingdom:** Hosea 13:1
 - **Injustice & Oppression in the S. Kingdom:** Is. 1:17
 - **Failure to Repent in ANY NATION:** Jer. 18:7-10
 - ". . .your will be done ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN..."
- C. **Jesus IS the fulfillment of the Law!** - He never sins, represents the promise of the ceremonies, & is the Logos.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** - Jesus becomes OUR SIN, and we become HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
 - **Romans 6:11** - Consider yourself DEAD to sin...
 - People NEED a NEW HEART in order to live for God.

3. So...how are we to vote?→We should vote to PROMOTE GOOD & PREVENT EVIL.

- A. **We vote for a candidate who will promote good & prevent evil (God's values).**→Romans 13
 - The President will appoint a cabinet and staff to help them run their Presidency.
 - The President will appoint Supreme Court & Federal judges who will interpret and enforce Laws.

B. Make a list of the platform issues & place them on the grid.

• **The 6 Purposes of our Preamble:**

- to form a more perfect Union
- establish Justice,
- insure domestic Tranquility,
- provide for the common defense,
- promote the general Welfare, and
- secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity

• **The Platform Issues:**

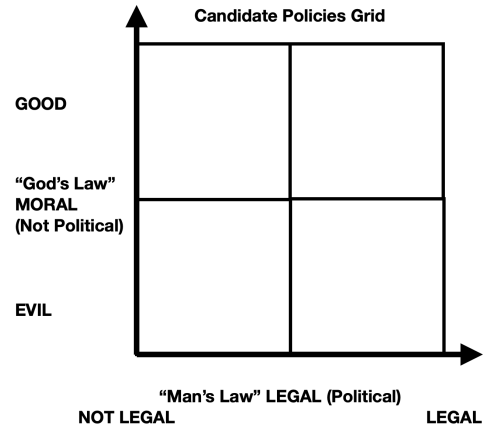
- **Economy:** Taxes, job growth, energy independence
- **Immigration:** Border security & immigration reform...a solution for thousands of immigrants who are here working and paying taxes.
- **Sanctity of Life:** Protecting the rights and dignity of humans inside and outside the womb.
- **Education:** What is being taught to our children? Specifically about sexuality & gender...?
- **National Security:** Who will fund military? Who will protect citizens against internal/external threats?
- **Transgenderism & LGBTQ+:** God created sex & He created gender. Often times we obey would way into feelings rather than feel our way into obedience. How are our kids being protected?
- **Religious Liberty:** Who protect the church and individuals right to worship and practice their faith?
- **Israel:** Who will support Israel?

C. Pray for revival. = William Wilburforce & John Newton

MAIN IDEA: We vote God's values with our lives, our ballots, & prayers!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. In what ways have I personally felt the loss of "saltiness" in my spiritual walk, and how can I "get salty" again?
2. What areas of my life have I hidden my light instead of letting it shine? How can I better reflect God's glory?
3. How can I be more discerning about what media I consume and share? How can I actively promote good and prevent evil in my own sharing of media without being divisive?
4. How does the concept of a "higher Law" challenge me to live? Does who is President change how I live?
5. How does my vote reflect my kingdom values and how am I evaluating the platform issues
6. What are some ways I can live out God's values beyond voting, to influence my family, church, & community?
7. **PRAYER:** "Father help us to vote YOUR values with our lives, our ballots, & our prayers."



QUOTES / SONGS:

- “The Bible does not clearly define the limits of this authority!” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- “We don't easily understand what the Bible intends in political matters, since it is not a how-to book on political matters.” - Dennis McNutt
- “*Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies.*” - Groucho Marx.
- “*Politics is perhaps the only profession for which no preparation is thought necessary.*” - Anon.
- “*If you think you are getting too much government, just be thankful you're not getting us much as you're paying for.*” - Anon.
- “*Christians should be as involved in politics and government as they are in all other realms of life.*” - Tim Keller
- “*The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.*” - Martin Luther King Jr.
- “*Jesus was not crucified for being a good preacher. He was crucified because he took on the powers that be. He was a political figure.*” - Shane Claiborne
- “*Christians should never have a political party. It is a huge mistake to become married to an ideology.*” - C.Colson

BOOKS:

- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. Translated by R. H. Fuller. New York: Touchstone, 1959.
- Hill, Jonathan. *What Has Christianity Ever Done for Us? How It Shaped the Modern World*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2005.
- Lutz, Donald S. *The Origins of American Constitutionalism*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988.
- Metaxas, Eric. *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2010.
- Palmer, Michael D., ed. *Elements of a Christian Worldview*. Springfield, MO: Logion Press, 1998.
- Schmidt, Alvin J. *How Christianity Changed the World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004.
- Stark, Rodney. *America's Blessing: How Religion Benefits Everyone, Including Atheists*. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2012.

SCRIPTURES ESTABLISHING THE THREE INSTITUTIONS: NASB (2020) unless otherwise noted.

1. Family

- **Gen. 2:24**: “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”
- **Eph. 5:22-33**: This passage outlines the relationship between husbands and wives, emphasizing love and mutual submission, stating that wives should submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ.
- **Col. 3:18-21**: “Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”

2. Church

- **Mt. 16:18**: “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”
- **Acts 2:42-47**: This passage describes the early church's activities, emphasizing teaching, fellowship, and prayer.
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**: “For just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.”

3. Government

- **Rom. 13:1-7**: “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”
- **1 Peter 2:13-17**: “Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him.”
- **Proverbs 8:15-16**: “By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice.”

SCRIPTURES WITH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE:

1. **Hebrew Midwives** – Exodus 1:15-21
2. **Moses' Parents** – Exodus 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:23
3. **Rahab and the Spies** – Joshua 2:1-21; Hebrews 11:31
4. **David Fleeing from King Saul** – 1 Samuel 19-23
5. **Elijah Confronting Ahab and Jezebel** – 1 Kings 18
6. **Esther Defying the Law of Persia** – Esther 4:10-16
7. **The Refusal to Bow to Haman** – Esther 3:1-6
8. **Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego** – Daniel 3:1-30
9. **Daniel in the Lions' Den** – Daniel 6:1-28
10. **Jeremiah Resisting the Prophets and the King's Orders** – Jeremiah 38:1-13
11. **Jesus Healing on the Sabbath** – Mark 3:1-6; Luke 13:10-17
12. **Peter and the Apostles before the Sanhedrin** – Acts 5:27-29
13. **The Apostles Refusing to Stop Preaching about Jesus** – Acts 4:18-20

SCRIPTURES IN THIS SERMON: NASB (2020) unless otherwise noted.

- **2 Corinthians 5:21** "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
- **Romans 6:11** "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

SCRIPTURES REGARDING POLITICS: NASB (2020) unless otherwise noted.

- **Psalms 2:10-11** - "Now then, you kings, use insight; let yourselves be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling."
- **Psalms 33:12** - "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen for His own inheritance."
- **Psalms 72:1-2** - "Give the king Your judgments, God, and Your righteousness to the king's son. May he judge Your people with righteousness and Your afflicted with justice."
- **Proverbs 21:1** - "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He pleases."
- **Isaiah 9:6-7** - "For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore."
- **Isaiah 11:4** - "But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the humble of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked."
- **Isaiah 33:22** - "For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; He will save us."
- **Jeremiah 29:7** - "Seek the prosperity of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord in its behalf; for in its prosperity will be your prosperity."
- **Daniel 2:21** - "It is He who changes the times and the periods; He removes kings and appoints kings. He gives wisdom to wise men, and knowledge to people of understanding."
- **Micah 6:8** - "He has told you, mortal one, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
- **Mark 12:16-17** - "16 And they brought one. And He *said to them, 'Whose image and inscription is this?' And they said to Him, 'Caesar's.' 17 And Jesus said to them, 'Pay to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they were utterly amazed at Him."
- **Matthew 5:14** - "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."
- **Matthew 6:33** - "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you."
- **Matthew 22:21** - "They said to Him, 'Caesar's.' Then He said to them, 'Then pay to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.'"
- **Luke 4:18-19** - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."
- **John 18:36** - "Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.'"
- **Acts 17:26** - "and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation."
- **Romans 13:1-2** - "Every person is to be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves."
- **Philippians 3:20** - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."
- **Titus 3:1-2** - "Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to slander no one, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing every consideration for all people."
- **Revelation 11:15** - "Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.'"
- **Revelation 19:16** - "And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.'"

NEXT STEPS:



WATER BAPTISM

INTERESTED IN BEING
WATER BAPTIZED?

ONELOVE AFRICA



Pray for those who said "YES" to going!

Front Row: Elizabeth, Davida, Mary, Kathleen, Vanessa, Da'Neicia
Back Row: Dana, Christina, Jenny, Alice, Kara | Not Pictured: Vickki

Pray for these women while they are in Eswatini, Africa ministering to women of the ICBC churches who have come to attend the women's retreat.

- **Water Baptism** - October 26 and 27. Click [here](#) for more information on water baptism and to register for the next baptism.
- **GSV Luncheon** - October 27. Featured Organization: Andy and Heather Erickson, Dayton Area Chi Alpha Directors. Click [here](#) for more information and to reserve your spot.
- **Now What?** - If you "Said Yes", click [here](#) for some helpful next steps.
- **Join a Team!** - Click [here](#) for team information and details!
- **Join a Group!** - Click [here](#) for group information and details.
- **GROWTHTRACK 101** - November 13, 7 pm. Are you new to CLC and want to learn more about the church and meet others you worship with? If so, GrowthTrack is the place for you! [Click here to register!](#)