



The Election That Matters: It seems that our entire nation is captivated by yet another presidential election. In what seems to be one of the most politically charged moments in history, many have suggested that this upcoming election is the most important one of this

generation. Because of this, nearly every venue of the media is equally charged, yielding a continual flow of opinion columns, interviews and talk show chatter. With all the exposure given to this year's presidential election, perhaps some of you are thinking: "I'll be glad when it's all over!" Well it will be over soon, but this does not mean that the political tensions in our nation will necessarily end with the election. And beyond our own nation we must admit that our world is filled with many difficulties and trials that often fuel the political rancor here at home. But the problems of our world and our nation are not essentially new. In fact, all of human history is rife with the trials of war and terrorism. And because of this we should ask the question: "Can America, or any nation on earth, experience peace and safety forever?" It is an important question that is on the hearts and minds of many today and should be addressed by the following 3 principles: **1. We must understand what true peace is:** Many will define peace as the mere absence of war, terrorism or any form of dissension among men. While this may seem to be true, it is not. Men may enjoy such peace with other men for a season, but it is temporal and does not establish the more important truth of man's enmity with God: Because of the universal sin of mankind (Romans 3:23) men are at enmity with God (Romans 5:10), they are "children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:3), there is none who does good – "not even one" (Romans 3:12), "the intent of his heart is evil from his youth" (Genesis 9:21), "their feet are swift to shed blood" (Romans 3:15) therefore "destruction and misery are in their paths" and the "path of peace they have not known" (Romans 3:16-17). Man's enmity with God is the very source of all enmity which we see in this world. Trying to solve the latter problem by ignoring the former is like treating a cancerous tumor with soap and water: Topical treatments are useless, for until the source of illness is plucked out there will be no cure. Spiritually speaking, this is the very problem that plagues mankind, but the good news is this: "...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). It is crucial to understand that Jesus Christ is our peace (Ephesians 2:14) if we confess our sin and believe in Him: "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). Men can have

true peace, if they trust the Savior and thereby have peace with God through Christ. **2. We must understand something about presidential elections:** It is crucial that we understand the concept of election, not as defined by the votes cast by Americans, but as defined by God in the Bible. When we speak of *election*, we are speaking of the choice of an individual and this is exactly what we do when we cast our vote in election years. But there is a much more important discussion concerning election in the Bible, and it is this: *All history is governed by God's sovereign election*: "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'" (Isaiah 46:9-10), therefore Kings and rulers are established by His authority: To Pilate "Jesus answered, 'You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above.'" And finally, those who are ordained to rule, ultimately serve God's sovereign will: "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes" (Proverbs 21:1). In the end, the election that matters is the sovereign election of God. **3. We must understand how the story of human history ends:** Many kings and presidents will come and go, but there is only One who will reign supremely without end: Jesus Christ the risen Lord Who is exalted "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come" (Ephesians 2:21). His kingdom "is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion endures throughout all generations" (Psalm 145:13). The kingdoms of this earth will constantly face the trials of poverty, warfare and pain but in the eternal kingdom of the Son of God "He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4). And who will dwell with Christ in His kingdom? – those who believe in Jesus Christ the Savior, Who died for sinners in order that those who believe in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life and *everlasting peace with God*. If you would like to know more about having peace with God, please visit our website, or give us a call: www.thestoryofamazinggrace.ws or www.pilgrimbiblechurch.org. Pilgrim Bible Church, Pastor M. J. Beasley