

Vote God Smart!
1 Samuel 8:1-22

Intro: A great man once said that most Christians are so subnormal that when some rise to the normal, they are considered supernormal! Here is the problem we face; Worldliness, carnality, and indifference have become so much the usual condition of Christians that passion, power, prayer and purity seem extraordinary! – Bible Nation

We Christians need to have a biblical Worldview in order to **Vote God Smart!** The problem is, that for most Christian's, church – their Christian walk – is just something that impacts them on Sunday, the rest of the week they “want to be like everyone else.” Maybe not do all the really bad things everyone else does but they want to be thought of as “just one of the guys;” the same priorities the same motives. They don't even stop to consider Scripture when making family, job or professional decision.

Today I am going to preach a message that I believe needs to be preached two days before our national election. Because, if the Christians of our nation do not begin to stand up and begin to look at the times with a proper Christian worldview this nation is doomed. Soon we will be nothing more that a second world country on its way to becoming a third world country.

Why do I say this? Because I believe that many of the problems we face as a nation are the result of the church not being the church. The church not seeing the world through the lens of Scripture; for example: Prayer is no long allowed in school, Christmas cannot be celebrated, abortion on demand is the order of the day and marriage between one man and one woman are all issues we have to live with because the church failed to face these wrongs with a proper Christian Worldview.

In our text for today we find a nation who had lost its Godly Worldview and the result.

[Turn 1 Sam 8:1-22/pray]

In our Declaration of Independence we are state that we have the unalienable right to **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**

Life, Liberty and Happiness, what does it mean that we have the unalienable right to these three things? And more importantly are they, as has been defined by our modern politicians and judges, something we as Christians should desire? This week we will cast our vote for our next president and contrary to what some have said – there is really no choice – I believe we have a very clear choice to make on Tuesday. The right choice, however, will depend on your Christian Worldview.

Probably twenty or twenty-five years elapsed between the events recorded in chapter 7 and those in chapter 8 of 1 Samuel. Samuel now an old man, about to pass from the scene, and a new generation had emerged in Israel with new leaders who had new ideas. Life goes on, circumstances change, and God's people must have wisdom to adapt to new challenges without abandoning old convictions. Like more than one great leader, Samuel in his old age faced some painful situations and had to make some difficult decisions. He left the scene convinced that he had been rejected by the people he had served so faithfully.

God had chosen Moses to lead the nation of Israel and Joshua to succeed him (Deut. 31:1-15), but Joshua wasn't commanded to lay hands on any successor. He left behind elders whom he had trained to serve God, but when they died, the new generation turned away from the Lord and followed the idols of the land (Judges 2:10-15). There was an automatic succession to the priesthood, and the Lord could call out prophets when needed, but who would lead the people and see to it that the law was

obeyed? During the period of the Judges, God rose up leaders here and there and gave them great victories, but nobody was in charge of the nation as a whole. **“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes”** (Judges 21:25). The “nation” of Israel was made up of sovereign tribes, and each tribe was expected to seek the Lord and do His will. That brings us to our text, verses 6-9 are key to our message today, **“But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. ⁷And the LORD said unto Samuel, Harken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”**

That is the message for us today, as we go to the voting booth on Tuesday who are we looking to for guidance as we cast or vote? True we are not electing a God or a pastor on Tuesday but I believe with the proper Worldview – a Christian Worldview – we will vote for the man that at least best represents us before our God by his policies. So as we vote for the man who will lead us in the **“Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness”** these next four years what is the proper Christian Worldview regarding these three things?

I. **First What is God’s view on life?**

A. First off regarding the unborn

1. Ps 139:13-18 *“For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. ¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet*

there was none of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

2. In this verse it is very clear that David being lead by the Holy Spirit understood that his life – all life – begins in his mother’s womb.
3. Listen to what God said to Moses regarding the unborn when He was giving him the law, *“If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman’s husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. ²³And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, ²⁴Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”* (Exodus 21:22-25)
 - a) The word ‘*strive*’ means to ‘*grapple or wrangle*’ in other words fight
 - b) The word ‘*depart*’ means to come out or be delivered
 - c) The word ‘*mischief*’ means hurt or injure
 - d) So what God says is if two men are fighting and the ones pageant wife be struck and the baby be delivered and no harm is done to here then it is up to her husband will determine the cost; but if the baby be delivered and some harm or hurt happen the *“Eye for eye, tooth for tooth...”*
4. It is safe to say that God is pro-life
5. Where do our candidates stand on the issue of life?
 - a) One said when asked the question when does life begin: the he “understands that abortion is a divisive issue, and respects those who disagree with him. However, he has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving women’s

rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority as President. He opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in the *R v. W* case" – Bible Nation

- b) The other, "believes *Roe v. Wade* is a flawed decision that must be overturned, and as president he will nominate judges who understand that courts should not be in the business of legislating from the bench." – Bible Nation

B. Another issue of life is Family life

- 1. Again, God's Word is very clear regarding the issue of homosexuality and gay marriage
 - a) Gen 1:27 "*...God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*"
 - (1) God created us men and women for a reason
 - (2) He created Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve
 - b) As for marriage God does not sanction but one kind of marriage, Gen 2:24 "*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*"
 - c) Lest you be tempted to say 'yea but that is Old Testament stuff, listen to what Paul had to say in Romans 1:24,26-27 "*Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ...God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet*"

- d) Homosexuality and gay marriage are both an abomination to God, Lev 18:22 says, *“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination”*
- 2. Where do our candidates stand on the issue of Gay rights mainly gay marriage?
 - a) One man says he “supports full civil unions that give same-sex couples equal legal rights and privileges as married couples. He believes we need to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and enact legislation that would ensure that the 1,100+ federal legal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples in civil unions and other legally-recognized unions.”
 - b) The other guy says, “The family represents the foundation of Western Civilization and civil society and believes the institution of marriage is a union between one man and one woman. It is only this definition that sufficiently recognizes the vital and unique role played by mothers and fathers in the raising of children, and the role of the family in shaping, stabilizing, and strengthening communities and our nation.” – Bible Nation
- C. So, when it comes to life one man believes supports polices that are diametrically opposed to clear biblical teaching; the other has a Biblical Worldview regardless of if he is a Christian or not.

II. Secondly, What is God’s View of Liberty?

- A. Look at our text today, what does the Lord say to Samuel will happen when He gives the people what they think they want?
- B. The said they wanted the prosperity of other people *“...make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”* (V.5)

1. They had looked around and wanted to be like everyone else – have what they had
2. The grass was greener on the other side of the fence
- C. They asked for a king a second time in v. 19 – 20, “...we will have a king over us; ²⁰That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles”
 1. They wanted to be safe from their enemies and believed that would only happen if they had a king like everyone else
 2. They wanted personal security and believed it would come only from a government like everyone else
- D. The problem is however they were rejection God as their provider of personal security and prosperity
 1. Look at verses 11 – 17
 2. If you look to government to be your provider of personal security and prosperity you give up your liberty.
- E. Listen to what God has to say regarding looking to government for your security and prosperity, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:” (Matt6:19-20)
 1. This past month we have seen the problem with looking to government and the markets for our security and prosperity
 2. Anything that is invested in the things of this world “moth and rust” will come in and take it away
 3. Only what we invest in the kingdom will truly last
- F. What about retirement? First of all I see no biblical teaching the principal of retirement – we are to be about the Lord’s business and “Occupy till I come” Jesus expects us to be busy until He returns.

1. If we get to aged to actually work then who should care for us?
2. God speaks of that too, “*Honour widows that are widows indeed. ⁴But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.* (1 Tim 5:3-4).
 - a) Here we see that it is the children’s responsibility to look after their parents in old age
 - b) “¹⁶*If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed*”
 - c) Paul did not tell them *how* these widows should be relieved—giving them a regular support, taking them into a home, giving them employment, etc.
 - d) Each local assembly would have to decide that according to the needs of each individual case.
3. How does this principle apply to Christians today?
 - a) Certainly we must honor our parents and grandparents and seek to provide for them if they have needs.
 - b) Not every Christian family is able to take in another member, and not every widow wants to live with her children.

III. Finally, What is God’s View of Happiness?

- A. First of all the constitution does not guarantee us happiness only that we will be free to pursue happiness.
- B. One of the candidates believes that happiness comes when we all are sharing the wealth.

1. In fact he just recently said that if we don't like sharing our wealth we are selfish.
 2. He tried to use Matthew 25 to tell us that if we claim to be Christian we owe it to the poor and unemployed of this country and even the world to help.
 3. He selectively uses this verse (Matt 25:40), "*Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*"
 4. The problem is this verse first of all has to do with the treatment of the Jew not all people, second the Bible is written to God's people and cannot be applied to all people.
- C. But what is God's view of this idea of pursuing happiness?
1. First of all, what does God think about working?
 - a) "*And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; ¹²That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.*" (1 Thess 4:11)
 - b) "*For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. ¹For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*" (2 Thess 3:7-10)
 - c) It is very clear here that, at least for God's people (that who the Bible was written too), if you don't work you shouldn't eat.
 - d) God's formula for being happy and prosperous is simply, "...but rather let him labour, working with his

hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” (Ep 4:28)

- e) *“The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.” (Ecc. 5:12)*
- 2. The problem is that we own to those who don’t have to give to them and we are but listen to what Paul’s says about his, *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” (Gal 6:10)*
 - a) We should do good to all men, especially those in the church
 - b) It isn’t the governments responsibility to take care of the needy it was always the churches job – the verse in Matt 25 is talking about evangelizing by providing a meal, clothes, etc for the needy not about just feeding everyone – when the church gave up their responsibility to take care of the needy and gave it over to the government we gave up our right to be the church

D. In Fact our Lord gives us a very clear indication just how we can be happy, have all our needs met when He says, *“seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

Conclusion: My question for you today is what worldview are you going to use when you cast your vote on Tuesday? Are you going to be like the people of Samuel’s day and reject God for the king you think will give you the most or are you going to have A Godly Worldview into the voting booth and ask witch man best represents those things God finds important?

The choice is yours but we know that this country is in trouble and we stand at the tipping point as a nation we can either continue to have

God's blessings on our nation or see His hand of blessing completely removed. The only way this nation will ever service is if we do what 2 Ch 7:14 tells us, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*