**November 6, 2016 “Render unto Caesar” Matthew 22:15-22**

On Tuesday of this week, many United States citizens, I wish I could say, most United States citizens, but I cannot, will head to the nearest polling station to cast their votes for those whom they desire to represent them as elected officials in this country.

I, like many of you who are…… shall we say getting older, grew up in a far different time and culture than what the children of today are experiencing. In the area in which I lived I knew not one person who had been divorced. I did not know one woman who smoked or used coarse language. I knew nothing of homosexuality since it was never mentioned, nor did I have the slightest inclination of what an abortion was. Nor did I know anyone who used illegal drugs or was addicted to prescription drugs. All that came about after I left the home into which I was born.

In the last 50 years or so, due to equal rights, tolerance, political correctness and the so-called separation of church and state, the things I mentioned previously have now become inalienable rights.

Many people today are telling me that this election is the most important election of our lifetime and maybe they are correct. I don’t know maybe it is…. maybe it is not?? Why would someone think that? Why would someone say that?

Could it be that government is viewed as good if it agrees with me and it is evil if it does not? What has happened in the church many times is that political strategies or political leanings take precedence over what the Church has been called to do and when that happens the Church becomes weak and emaciated because it has lost its first love.

So, let’s look at a number of things today regarding the role of the Christian within any society.

1. Matthew 22:15-22
	1. Should Christians be involved in the political structure at all?
		1. Answer is “Yes”
		2. If we do not get involved
			1. We have no respect for the rights that we have as United States citizens
				1. Freedom of press
				2. Freedom of assembly
				3. Freedom of speech
				4. Freedom to redress grievances to our gov’t
			2. We ought to vote for moral correctness and against things that immoral or unjust.
				1. Why I am against abortion?

Because the Word of God tells me it is wrong……not because of my political persuasion.

* + - * 1. Why I oppose homosexuality?

Because the Word of God tells me that no homosexual will inherit the kingdom of God

* + - * 1. Why I oppose adultery?

Because the Word of God tells me that no adulterer will inherit the kingdom of God

* + - * 1. Why I oppose murder?

Because the Word of God tells me no murderer will inherit the kingdom of God

1. Should Christians seek political office
	1. Of course
		1. Joseph, Daniel, Centurion in Acts, Matthew, Zacchaeus
	2. Kingdom Now theology
		1. Somehow Christians need to get into all these various offices and usher in some type of a Christian world and then everything will be right
	3. New Apostolic Reformation
		1. God is going to set up present day apostles and prophets to take dominion that is needed to set up God’s kingdom on earth.
2. Acts 26:14-18
	1. There was probably not a more decadent society than which was in place at the time of Jesus and Paul
		1. Herod killed all the children in an entire town
		2. Nero, Caligula
	2. Paul is a prisoner
		1. Telling those that he has been called
			1. Open the eyes……so they may see
			2. They may receive forgiveness of their sins
			3. Receive an inheritance through faith in Christ alone
	3. Acts 26:28-29
		1. I wish…. not only you but all who hear me this day
		2. Would be saved
	4. I am under no illusions that any particular political party can save the United States from all of it problems
3. Ephesians 6: 12
	1. John Knox
		1. Perhaps more than anything else, John Knox is known for his prayer “Give me Scotland, or I die.” Knox’s prayer was not an arrogant demand, but the passionate plea of a man willing to die for the sake of the pure preaching of the gospel and the salvation of his countrymen. Knox’s greatness lay in his humble dependence on our sovereign God to save His people, revive a nation, and reform His church. As is evident from his preaching and prayer, Knox believed neither in the power of his preaching nor in the power of his prayer, but in the power of the gospel and the power of God, who sovereignly ordains preaching and prayer as secondary means in the salvation of His people.
		2. Although Knox had been imprisoned and enslaved, and though he was often infirm and under threat of persecution, he consistently lived out his theology, believing that “one man with God is always in the majority.” As such, the prayers of one man heard at the throne of God were a threat to the throne of Scotland. During the time of the sixteenth-century Scottish Reformation, Knox’s ministry of preaching and prayer were so well known that the Roman Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots, is reputed to have said, “I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe.”
	2. The greatest threat to the United States is not one political party or another……. the greatest threat is the so-called Christian is willing to compromise on the message of the Cross found throughout the Word of God which is the focal point of the everlasting, glorious Gospel of Christ

I am going to close with this: Jesus said, “You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

The truth is this; you and I are great sinners, we have all sinned a come short of glory of God, but God, in His great mercy has formed and offered unto us full and complete pardon in Jesus Christ. All you have to do is to accept His pardon and He will transform us all.