**SERMON NOTES**

**“Seek the Good of the City: How Christians Should View their Role in Elections”**

Jeremiah 29: 4-7

**As believers the Word of God (the Bible) is to shape, effect, and be applied to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ part of our lives.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ alone is sovereign over kings (presidents) and the affairs of kingdoms (nations) (V4).**

**King Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon were only able to accomplish what they did because God in His sometimes mysterious but always good wisdom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and willed it.**

**Christian, your God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over all things. In the wisdom of His good will He raises up nations and kings and establishes them and also removes them (Proverbs 21:1).**

**Whatever happens in this election and elections to come – whether it is the thing that you want or the thing you fear - God is still \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in His good wisdom just as He has always done and will always do.**

**My vote as a Christian is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that I am called to exercise for the good of the city (country) and all the people in it.**

**As exiles, citizens of another country, the people of God in Jeremiah 29 are to live \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Babylon.**

**At the same time, the people of God are not called to divorce themselves from productive life in Babylon, rather they are to influence it for God- to promote and seek its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and pray to the Lord for the welfare of the city – for its welfare will be their welfare(v 5-7).**

**God’s word tells us that we also live as exiles and sojourners in this world no matter what country we live in because our citizenship is a different and better country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(1 Peter 2: 11; Philippians 3:20).**

**And yet, as Christians we are still called to be in the world but not of the world – which means that we too should not divorce ourselves from life in the “country” that we now live in. Rather we are to - as ambassadors of Christ - influence it for God as we promote, pray for and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ its good - for its welfare will be our welfare.**

**One \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ made by some is to view politics and elections as ultimate.**

**Seeking the good of the city (country) first, foremost, and righty must be a commitment to share the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ regularly.**

**The gospel of Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected for sinners to the praise of his glory is the only means by which a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can occur in the hearts of the men and women of our country – and every county.**

**Politics are not everything but they are also not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The privilege and stewardship of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is one way you seek the good of this country while you await the better country of Heaven.**

**One error made by some is to act as if politics and elections are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Politics \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our laws and policies which affect our neighbors and families – our city / country.**

**As a Christian, your faith is not called to be private but public. Your faith intended by God to influence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your life – including the way we approach pollical engagement and the stewardship of voting.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was designed and ordained by God to serve the common good (Romans 13: 1-5).**

**When the Bible speaks clearly on a matter the believer and the church should also speak \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the matter.**

**Christians get to seek the good of those around them by using the unique privilege of their vote to promote good by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for those things that God has designed and spoken clearly to.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life is made by God and made in the image of God and therefore deserves the dignity and the sanctity of life (Psalm 139: 13-14; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:39 – 45).**

**When you can’t promote all of the good of God’s design that you want for your city/country try to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as much departure from it as possible (Matthew 5: 13).**

Blanks: every; God; allowed; sovereign; ruling & reigning; stewardship; in & of; good; Heaven; seek; error; gospel; change; nothing; voting; insignificant; shape; all; Government; clearly; advocating; Every; minimize;

Congregational Reading – Psalm 122: 8-9

For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, “Peace be within you!” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.