

# Decision 2012 – Part 3

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The founders (95% Christians) expected the people to exercise their responsibility to vote with accountability toward God.

“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual - or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is **accountable to God** and his country.” - *Samuel Adams*

"I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- God Governs in the Affairs of Men, And if a Sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, Is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid?" - *Benjamin Franklin*

### **Warning from the Past:**

"If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how **sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory** in profound obscurity." - *Daniel Webster*

### **Jesus View of Political Power**

**Matthew 20:25-28** – <sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers or leaders of the Gentiles lord over and exercise dominion over them, and those who are great or in power exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. <sup>27</sup> And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Politicians and political parties address issues from a perspective of **exercising dominion** over those they often pretend to **serve**.

How does the Word of God deal with difficult issues of the day? **Redemptively.**

## **POVERTY – The Bible Balance**

**Proverbs 19:17** - He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.

**Leviticus 25:35-38** – <sup>35</sup> If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you. <sup>36</sup> Do not take interest of any kind from him, but fear your God, so that your countryman may continue to live among you. <sup>37</sup> You must not lend him money at interest or sell him food at a profit. <sup>38</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.

**II Thessalonians 3:10-12** – <sup>10</sup> Even while we were still there with you, we gave you this rule: "He who does not work shall not eat." <sup>11</sup> Yet we hear that some of you are living in laziness, refusing to work, and wasting your time in gossiping. <sup>12</sup> In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we appeal to such people—we command them—to quiet down, **get to work**, and **earn their own living**.

### **Abortion and Redemption**

- When this issue is politicized, great damage is done to people.
- God loves the child in the womb, but he also loves the woman who has had or is contemplating an abortion.

**Jeremiah 1:4-5** - The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

**Psalms 139:13-16** – <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that fully well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, <sup>16</sup> your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

### **Regardless of your sin, God is rich in mercy!**

**Ephesians 2:1,4-5** – <sup>1</sup> Jesus has made you alive who were once dead, doomed forever because of your many sins.

<sup>4</sup> But God is so **rich in mercy**, and he **loved us so very much**, <sup>5</sup> that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!)