

Bring Your Bible to the Ballot Box

Psalm 101

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On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, when we go to the polls to vote, we will be choosing those who will be our civic leaders. We will choose who will lead our city, our state, and our nation.

Leaders have the potential for great good and for great evil. They provide models for behavior. They are advocates of ideas, philosophies, and policies they hope to impose on the people.

They are given the power to make decisions that impact almost every aspect of life.

Therefore, Christians should take his or her vote very seriously:

You should pray about it.

You should gather information.

You should give it careful thought.

We know that in the Constitution of the United States, the authority of government rests in the citizenry.

Abraham Lincoln so beautifully expressed it as a government “OF the people, BY the people, and FOR the people.”

The election process is how we, the people, DELEGATE our leadership for civil government to individuals who REPRESENT us. They are leaders in our stead.

The Bible has much to say about leading, being led, and leadership. In fact, leadership is mentioned 131 times in the Bible.

Consider Psalm 101. It could be called "The Declaration of Leadership for those in Authority."

David writes this Psalm as he is about to become the King of Israel. In this psalm, David declares his intentions on being a godly leader. It is a psalm of his determination to ACT, to DO, to LEAD. It's a psalm of “wills” and “shalls.”

As we read through these 8 verses, notice the word “will” and “shall.”

You will find “will” 9 times and “shall” 6 times. (Perhaps circle those words in your Bible.)

Yes, leadership is MORE than words, speeches, and catchphrases.

The book of the psalms is a book of divine expressions of “praise and worship.” The highest and purest expression of our praise and worship of the Lord is when we DO those things that please Him.

Psalm 101 <A Psalm of David.>

Verses 1 through 8 – *I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.*

2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

4 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

8 I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

As we work our way through the HIGH POINTS of this scripture, we will see that ... there are two sections to this Psalm of Leadership -

I. Verses 1-4 – THE PERSONAL CHARACTER OF A MODEL LEADER

We certainly need to choose leaders who demonstrate character and integrity.

Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

A. Verse 1 – A BALANCED ATTITUDE

Verse 1 – *I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.*

The singing here is a concept of a strolling minstrel singing as he walks along.

In his daily movements through responsibilities, the model leader is carrying a balance of
MERCY and JUDGEMENT.

Good leaders know how to show both firmness and compassion.

Clearly the introduction to this Psalm sets it as being relevant to our EARTHLY life. They do not sing of judgment in Heaven, for there is no sin there;

They do not sing of mercy in Hell, for there is no pardon from sin there.

B. Verse 2 – BLAMELESS CONDUCT

Verse 2 – I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

The model leader guards his or her own behavior. Notice the words "wisely" and "perfect."

These words imply carefulness, thoughtfulness, integrity, and wholesomeness.

The middle phrase – *O when wilt thou come unto me?*

David knows that our behavior is impacted by our desire to KNOW the Lord in a deeper way.

There is great value in a leader who understands that the LORD is the giver of wisdom.

Proverbs 8:12-16 – [I wisdom] ...by me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.

The skills to be an accomplished politician ARE NOT the same as the skills to be a wise leader. Let's look for wisdom.

C. Verse 3 – DISCERNMENT OF INFLUENCES

Verse 3 – I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

People in government are targets of all kinds of influences – some good, but most bad. It affects them. Many people in government are too eager to ACCOMMODATE wickedness.

2 Timothy 2:22 – Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1Thessalonians 5:22 – Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Note the model leader of Psalm 101 (Verse 3)

1. The sight of wickedness is to be avoided. *"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes."*

2. When seen it is to be loathed, it is to be despised. *"I hate the work of them that turn aside."*

3. When wickedness is felt, it is to be repudiated or pushed away. *"It shall not cleave to me."*

D. Verse 4 – GUARDED RELATIONSHIPS

Verse 4 – *A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.*

David had the power to choose his own counselors, advisors, governors, and servants. He intended to exercise that power carefully.

The higher a person goes in political office, the more assistants, staff, and deputies surround him. The leader selects (that is, appoints) these people to help in the administration of leadership.

David sets a high standard. Note the last phrase – *“I will not know a wicked person.”* (That’s simple and easy!) They will not be in his circle of influence at all.

That’s consistent with verse 3 – *I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.*

Now note the first phrase of verse 4 – *A froward heart shall depart from me.*

The original sense of the word FROWARD is to twist and contort. Apply that to a person's heart (their inner self). That’s a person of a perverse, subtle disposition that can twist and contort himself into all manner of shapes, and who has no truth and honor to be depended on.

Currently, we would say it like this: “He speaks out of both sides of his mouth.”
“His position changes depending on who he is talking to.”

II. Verses 5-8 – THE PUBLIC CONDUCT OF A MODEL LEADER

Verses 5 through 8 – *Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.*

6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

8 I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

A. THOSE HE WILL PUNISH

*The slanderers – Verse 5a – *Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off.*

We see this often in the campaigns. (We allow it. It works because we are lazy.)
It is on-going in much of the political debate over issues. (We should demand better.)

*The elitists – Verse 5b – *Him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer [allow].*

This vow is a commitment to impartiality, equality in dealing with the people he governs.

*The liars and deceivers – Verse 7 – *He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.*

Those people who hold a public office are in a position to take great personal advantage of their position. So HONESTY is the primary requirement.

A person who will lie to you – when given the opportunity – will steal from you.

*The lawbreakers and troublemakers – Verse 8 – *I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.*

This is a key responsibility of government – not only to promote GOOD, but also to prosecute EVIL

Notice the intensity of the language toward the “wicked.” He declares he will “destroy,” and “cut off” those who commit wickedness.

To favor sin is to discourage virtue, and undue leniency to the wicked is unkindness to the good.

Listen to what the Bible teaches in Romans 13.

Romans 13:1-6 – *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

B. THOSE HE WILL PROMOTE

The leader does more than execute judgment. He sets an example by the people he promotes.

Verse 6 – Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

Faithful people are honest, loyal, and dependable. People who take public office go through a “swearing-in” ceremony. They promise to uphold and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States, their city and their state.

People who WALK (in their daily and visible life) “perfect” those around them. Their aims, goals, and aspirations are HIGH.

The same word “perfect” in verse 2 suggests carefulness, thoughtfulness, integrity, and wholesomeness.

We highly appreciate a leader who says what he means and means what he says!

CONCLUSIONS

There are no totally perfect “officeholders,” and there are no perfect candidates. Many times we have poor choices. However, we must make the most of the opportunities that are presented to us.

We should examine each candidate through the "lens" of the Word of God.

Consider each candidate's character and integrity according to Psalm 101.

Also, many of the dominate political issues are directly addressed in the Bible:

Definition of Marriage.

Protection of the Unborn.

Maintaining criminal status of illicit drugs & prostitution.

The reduction (not the expansion) of gambling.

Freedom of speech in the pulpits.

In your mind and in your heart, when you vote, take your Bible to the ballot box!

Which person on the ballot has the closest alignment with the Bible? Vote for that person!

Proverbs 16:12 – It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

Don't vote your wallet – vote the Bible.

Don't vote your political party – vote the Bible.

Don't vote your union contract – vote the Bible.
Don't vote your mutual fund – vote the Bible.
Don't vote for a higher OR lower minimum wage – vote the Bible.
Don't vote your AARP membership – vote the Bible.
Don't vote your NRA membership – vote the Bible.

Vote in every election, and each time, take your Bible with you as you go to the polls and vote!

FINALLY

Everyone must consider the most important election, which is the “election” for your eternal soul.

Evangelist Joe Boyd said, “The devil votes AGAINST you and God votes FOR you. So YOU cast the deciding vote.”

You must make a choice TODAY that is far more important than the choice you will make in any political election.

You must choose Heaven or Hell. You must choose eternal life or eternal death.

Everyone is a sinner. That means YOU are a sinner. Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* And Romans 3:10 – *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.*

Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin. Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus offers you the forgiveness of your sin and eternal life with Him. Romans 6:23 – *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

You must believe that Jesus is God and that He alone can save you. John 14:6 says, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

You can receive the gift of salvation TODAY Romans 10:9-10 – *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

If you have just received Jesus as your Savior, I want to say, "Welcome to the family of God!"

