

## POLITICS AND RELIGION

It has often been said that the two things that people will argue about the quickest are politics and religion. I have noticed that there are a number of parallels between the two that will account for this.

First, many are very passionate about these subjects. Of course there are many who could care less about either, and there will be very few arguments with people who don't care one way or the other. But, there are people who are passionate about one or the other and some who are passionate about both. When one is passionate about a subject, they will tend to stand up for what they believe.

Secondly, among those that are passionate about politics and/or religion, they fall into two groups. Those who believe what they believe based upon purposeful research into the facts concerning the subject and those who passively listen to what others say and believe it to be the truth. Many people believe what is reported on the T.V. News, with no regard to whether it is actually true or not. Others get their views from the various post on social media sites. And, many get their religious views from what they hear from T.V. Evangelist, their local preacher or other such sources, never taking the time or putting forth the effort to find out if it is actually the truth or not. Paul spoke of his fellow Jews saying, "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:2). They had zeal (passion), but they lacked knowledge (truth).

Thirdly, there is a clear parallel between what is called "liberals" and what is called "conservatives" in both of these subjects. Though the United States Constitution certainly has not the divine origin as does the Bible, it is the pattern for things dealing with the politics of this nation. As those who are considered "liberals" in the political realm are readily ignoring the constitution that they might change the nature and function of the United States, so those who are called "liberals" in the religious realm readily ignore, mutilate and pervert the word of God in order to "rebuild" Christianity in the nature or shape they desire it to be. Peter mentioned those who were "...unlearned and unstable" who wrested (twisted) the scriptures (II Pet. 3:16).

It is a fact that we should be a bit passionate when it comes to standing up for our country. However, it is even more important that we are passionate about Christianity. Stand up for the truth of God's word, but be sure it is actually God's word first.

*Tilis*

## IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED

I heard it said a number of years ago that nearly every congregation of the Lord's church had a nucleus of about ten percent of the members that performed the vast majority of what the congregation as a whole accomplished. Nothing in the years between then and now has caused me to believe that the man who stated this was in error. Usually it is a small percent of the members that can be relied on to be present for every worship service, Bible study, gospel meeting or work day. Usually it is a small percent that give the majority of what is given upon the first day of each week and can be relied upon to do so consistently. And usually, there is an even smaller percentage of the members that actually get out and visit those that need to be visited and attempt to teach the gospel to others that their souls might be saved.

To borrow a phrase from James, "My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10). Did not the command to do the will of the Father in heaven (Matt. 7:21) apply to all of the members of the body of Christ as well as that small nucleus? Did not "...the precious blood of Jesus Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" redeem the souls of all the members of the body of Christ (I Pet. 1:18-19) as well as that small nucleus? Is not heaven the end goal of every child of God (II Tim. 4:8)? So, why would a large percentage of the membership of the body neglect the required actions that are to be performed as a child of God?

One might consider the "one talent man" who did nothing wrong, but instead failed to do that which he was supposed to do (Matt. 25:14-18). "His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant..." (Matt. 25:26). The Lord then said, "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30). This shows clearly the Lord's view of the child of God who lets others do all that needs to be done and does none of it themselves.

As children of God we are raised to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4). We are new creatures with new things to do (II Cor. 5:17) The work, worship and lifestyle of a child of God revealed in the New Testament is not a suggestion, a recommendation or an option, it is God's commands for His children. It just may be that now is the time for every member to get involved in the work of the church! *Tillis*