

Sermon Series: "Strange Things"

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: "Strange Politics"

Dates: November 5-6, 2016

If you want what normal people have, then do what normal people do.

If you want what few people have, then do what few people do.

Learn

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."

Matthew 5:13-15 (NLT)

"While our country has existed for 240 years, the Kingdom of Heaven has existed and will exist for all eternity. The decisions we make as citizens of the United States of America need to be informed and defined by our citizenship in heaven....We need to be wary of being more concerned about politics than we are about leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ." Pastor John Seitz

Three important questions with strange politics:

1. Should I vote?
 - a. Yes! Submitting to the governing authorities as a Christian (Romans 13) includes exercising your right to vote for the best possible outcome according to God's principles.
2. Who should I vote for? Remember:
 - a. Remember, we are not electing a "Pastor" in Chief.
 - b. Remember, we are all on the same team.
3. Is there any hope for our future?

The Apostle Paul wrote, "I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

Live

Regardless of what is going on in our lives or the life of our country, one thing is certain: Jesus is still in control! That's something to celebrate!

The short version of Reinhold Niebuhr's "Serenity Prayer" says:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

One of the fundamental difficulties of being a broken human being with an eternal soul is that we attempt to control what is not ours to control. And we often abdicate control of the one person we are commissioned to manage—ourselves! John Maxwell said that the most difficult person he has ever lead was—himself!

What are you tempted to control/manage that is not yours to control/manage?

Where do you sense God is leading you to exercise more control?

Love

Considering the divisive and volatile disagreements many have over the future of politics, ask:

Am I committed to my faith FIRST—leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus?

Am I intentionally offering patience, kindness, and even forgiveness to those with whom I disagree?

Lead

Remember, if you don't vote—you can't complain!

Remember, the church is eternal and is on the earth to bring glory to God. Make a difference!

Pray!

As Pastor John reminded us, our obligation is to pray for those in leadership. Take a moment and ask God to influence our leaders!