

WHY IN THE END I VOTED FOR MR. TRUMP

Psalm 146:3-5, “Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God.”

When Donald Trump descended the escalator at Trump Tower on June 16, 2015, my wife’s reaction was, “How can anyone take him seriously with that hair?” We laughed and went about our lives and gave Donald Trump very little thought the rest of that summer, even as his poll numbers continued to rise. I believed that my party, the Republican Party who I had always affiliated with, despite a youthful dalliance in college with the Democratic Party, would come to their collective senses and nominate Senator Marco Rubio. I mean surely they wouldn’t nominate a thrice married, vulgar, lewd showman and Casino owner, who at that point was in the process of offending nearly every people group in the United States? I mean my party had always been so practical!

I remember being asked what I thought would happen in the upcoming election. I told a few people that I believed Rubio would win the nomination because I believed he was the best candidate. I mean he was young, reasonable good looking, with an attractive young family, and he was Latino. I also believed the Secretary Clinton would win the Democratic nomination and that Rubio would clean her clock because she was and still is a terrible candidate. Boy was I wrong, at least half wrong.

Throughout this entire election season and especially once it became obvious that Mr. Trump would be the nominee of the Republican Party I decided I would vote for neither candidate. I looked at the third party candidates and felt that none of them were realistic options based upon their stance on the issues of abortion and religious freedom. For a moment there I seriously considered voting for Evan McMullin but in the end decided not to for reasons I will lay out here in this article.

During this entire process I have been unbelievably disappointed in some in the Evangelical movement who time after time have made excuses for Mr. Trump’s awful behavior. I was further disgusted when some suggested that anyone who didn’t vote for Trump weren’t really Christians. I was not as outspoken about the travesty that is Mrs. Clinton’s candidacy because frankly I have come to expect nothing less than sycophantic adoration from the left in this country. On the other I expect those who call themselves leaders of the Evangelical movement would hold themselves to a much higher bar than those on the left, but alas they did not. I fear they wanted the approval of men rather than God far too often and their desire for a place at the table outweighed their convictions at times. Thank the Lord for men like Russell Moore and Dr. Albert Mohler Jr.

As the summer came to a close I had resigned myself to not voting for anyone. I would vote down ballot for my congressmen, senators etc... But would not vote in the Presidential contest. As the fall campaign season got under way for a time I felt my decision was confirmed especially when Mr. Trump and his behavior reconfirmed my conviction. I was appalled at the audio tape of him that was recorded 11 years ago and was again shocked at some in the Evangelical community that excused this.

But then something happened that changed my mind. Two Fridays ago I came home from my office at the church and turned on the news over the noon hour to learn that the FBI was once again looking at Mrs. Clinton's homebrew email system for classified information. We also learned shortly thereafter that the Clinton Foundation was also under investigation. That paired with the constant drip, drip, drip of the Wikileaks disclosures began to remind me of the unbelievable corruption that is the Clintons. It is just staggering. All of that is bad, really bad, but it was what I saw on TV that day that changed my mind.

Mrs. Clinton held an event that day in Cedar Rapids Iowa and standing behind her, prominently on the stage was Cecile Richards the president of Planned Parenthood. That was the proverbial "straw that broke the camel's back" for me. Cecile Richards is the leading voice of abortion being not only legal, but being paid for by taxpayers, and being available right up the moment of birth. This is a woman who last summer when it became apparent that Planned Parenthood was selling body parts to the highest bidder, made excuse after excuse and blamed the messenger! This woman is evil! There is no other way to describe her. It struck me that Mrs. Clinton at a fairly run of the mill campaign stop had Cecile Richards so very prominently displayed, washing away any vestige of the "safe, legal, and rare" Democratic party of the 1990s. It was literally at that moment that I decided I would cast my vote (grudgingly) for Donald Trump. Even now that's hard to write.

After I had decided to vote for Mr. Trump I realized that I really had three reasons for doing this. First of all as I just stated Mrs. Clinton's enthusiastic support of the continued holocaust of abortion was the first one. While I do not trust Mr. Trump on this issue at all, I do know for a fact that Mrs. Clinton is rabidly pro the killing of babies in the womb. Secondly, I am still dumbstruck that a major political party would nominate someone who is under investigation by the FBI. When the news of her private server came out in 2015, for a moment there I really thought that the Democratic party would say, "You know we've had enough and for the good of the country, not to mention the good of the party, we are asking you not to run Hillary." I know naïve and stupid!

I therefore could not stand by without in some way registering a protest against the most corrupt politician to run for the presidency in my life time. Yes, I was born in 1969 so that means that Richard Nixon was not as corrupt as Hillary Clinton. I believe you to either don't know your history (a very distinct possibility) or be delusional if you cannot recognize that fact. Yes, I know that he was forced from office because of the break-in at Democratic headquarters at the Watergate office complex. I know that he covered it up and broke the law doing so. But do you know that in the end he was asked to resign by men in his own party for the good of the country? And guess what? He did. The Democrats have willfully turned their back on the rule of law and have nominated a woman who has knowingly exposed state secrets to enemies of the state. This is border line treasonous, not to mention the utter filth that emanates from the cesspool that is the Clinton Foundation.

Thirdly, Mrs. Clinton has said, publicly on the record, that her intention is to "put a lot of coal miners out of work." I live in a community that is deeply reliant on the coal industry and I cannot in good conscience ignore the very real concerns of those in my congregation and community who I deeply love and care for. My people are justifiably scared of a Clinton presidency.

In closing let me say that I am under absolutely no illusions about Mr. Trump. He is a deplorable candidate and I am ashamed of my party for nominating him seeing how we had so many excellent choices. He is a rude and vulgar man who seems to be a complete narcissist and thinks everything is about him. I do not hold out much hope as some do that he will govern as a true conservative, that he will appoint conservative judges. I think he will most likely be a disaster as President. But I do respect his choice for Vice-President and my prayer is that if Mr. Trump by some miracle is elected, will listen to Governor Pence and that Governor Pence will be a Daniel.

One thing I do know is that God is sovereign. He has already chosen, in fact he chose before time began, who the next president is. And whoever the new President is will have no effect on the Kingdom of God. As Christians our hope is not in Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. Our hope is not in the Democratic or Republican parties, our hope is the living hope. A few weeks back a gentleman in my church said to me, "Trump is our only hope." I corrected him and said, "No, the Lord Jesus Christ is our only hope."

I will close with 1 Peter 1:3, **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."** We who have been graciously redeemed by the blood of Christ have the **"living hope"** and let us never forget that. So instead of getting all worked up about today's election, why don't we the Body of Christ get worked up about sharing the only hope that any of us have and that is for repentance of our sins and the belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.