

# Cliff's Notes

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September was a good month at GBF...and a frenetic one--folks going back to school, AWANA, sports activities. We said goodbye to a flurry of wonderful collegiates until the holidays and next summer. We kicked off our 2 Fall Bible studies—Thursday mornings the ladies are reading *Lies Women Believe and the Truth that Sets Them Free* and Friday evenings is the all-church study on the “One-Anothers” of the NT. We continue our study in John’s Gospel. We had our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Church Members meeting—a time to celebrate what God has accomplished in our midst. We welcomed new members: **Kyle and Serene Asire** and the Derrick family—**John, Nichole, Hannah and Will**. The Asires come by way of Georgia and other locations and the Derricks were most recently in the great state of Texas. We baptized **Alex Chun**...who had 18 visitors come and support him that day! I wish I had 18 friends...

## Let's Get Political!

Election and voting time is one month away. Things are heating up. I am always amazed at the disparate views of politics and elections among Christians. Some think that being involved in politics and government can change society and usher in God’s kingdom. Others think Christians should not be involved in politics at all. Many think it does not matter, and others just don’t care. I think all four views are lacking. Being involved won’t change society, but it does make a difference. Christians need to cultivate a complete biblical worldview...and that includes how to be a good citizen here on earth for God’s glory. Consider the following principles: **1) Be a faithful steward**—voting is a privilege, not a right. If you lived in Iran, Saudi Arabia or any other totalitarian country right now, you would not get to vote. Freedom is a rare and fleeting gift in light of world history. Christians need to cherish it and not squander it (Matthew 25:24). Register to vote before Oct 20 if you haven’t already. **2) Be a good citizen**—we are called to be salt and light—that means we are to influence. We are heavenly citizens **and** earthly citizens. Godly people in the Bible were involved and influential as citizens: Joseph, Esther, Mordecai, Nehemiah, Daniel. The Apostle Paul invoked his right as a Roman citizen when he appealed to Caesar (Acts 25:11). “Separation of church and state” is not in the Bible, the Declaration of Independence or the

U. S. Constitution. **3) Make a difference**—Some Christians ignorantly say, “I don’t care about politics or vote because it won’t matter anyway.” Wrong answer! At a minimum, all Christians and all churches should be praying regularly, specifically and fervently for their communities and country. God responds to prayer (2 Chron 7:14). Scripture is clear on this. God commands the Church to pray for “*all who are in authority*” in political office. And we are supposed to pray for leaders who will promote and uphold ‘peace,’ ‘a quiet life [civility],’ the reign of ‘godliness’ and ‘dignity’ (1 Timothy 2:2). When one million babies are being slaughtered each year through abortion, that is not peaceful, godly, civilized or dignified—it is disastrous, horrific & ungodly. The unborn and infants are the most defenseless people in the world—they are the epitome of the “*least of these My brethren*” that Jesus sought to protect in Matthew 25:41-46. Make no mistake—God will avenge their blood in due time: “*the voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to Me from the ground*” (Gen 4:10). “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord*” (Rom 12:19). When ungodly people get in power, justice is undermined. “*When the wicked rule, the people groan*” (Prov 29:2). **4) Be aware**—the men of Issachar were commended because they “understood the times and knew what to do” (1 Chron 12:32). God rebuked His people when they became ignorant: “*My people have become heartless like ostriches in the desert*” (Lam 4:3). Sadly, many Christians are so myopic they don’t know what’s going on in the world—they are clueless and disengaged. Of all people, believers should “*understand the times*” as God’s ambassadors on earth. **5) Be discerning**—the Bible commands Christians “*to examine everything carefully, hold fast to that which is good*” (1 Thess 5:21). This verse commands Christians to be critical thinkers—don’t believe everything you hear on the news. Scripture warns us to not listen to those who have ungodly worldviews and agendas, who are “*insolent, arrogant...without understanding, untrustworthy*” (Rom 1:30-31). You cannot trust those who are blatantly against the Bible and Christianity—like ABC, NBC, CBS, MSNBC, CNN, etc. Get informed through reliable sources like Al Mohler, David Limbaugh, The PercyReport, WorldNetDaily, Newsmax, Crosswalk, The Heritage Foundation, Focus On the Family, CBN, OneNewsNow, Cal Thomas, The DrudgeReport & NationalReviewOnline just to name a few. **6) Have the right priorities**—if you are having trouble deciding who and what to vote for, then focus on the issues, not personalities. Hitler swayed the masses and fooled the world with his charisma and eloquence. Focus on biblical priorities like the sanctity of life (Exod 20:13) and a candidate’s view of abortion; the sanctity of marriage (Gen 2:24; Exod 20:14; Heb 13:4), the rule of law (1 Tim 1:9), the appointment of Judges (Prov 29:2), and truth to name a few. This November we have a stark contrast to choose from on these priority issues.