

November 4, 2012  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Selected Scriptures

**“Wisdom and Washington, D.C.”**

## Discussion Questions:

1. Some people say that they aren't going to bother voting because it doesn't make a difference. **Abraham Lincoln** said, "The ballot is stronger than the bullet." Some say that they are not going to vote because they don't like any of the candidates. **Jane Auer** said, "Voting is one of the few things where boycotting in protest clearly makes the problem worse rather than better." **Plato** said, "The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." What do you say?
2. Read Romans 13. What are the believer's responsibilities toward government? What is the government's responsibility toward its citizens?
3. Look at the following outline from **Jerry Bridges'** book, "**Trusting God Even When Life Hurts**," regarding God's sovereignty over government. How would a deep understanding and confidence in these truths help a person in a country that doesn't have the freedoms we enjoy or a country that is losing its freedoms to an increasingly tyrannical government?

**God's Sovereignty Over Nations** – Alexander Carson, "As God can protect his people under the greatest despotism, so the utmost civil liberty is no safety to them without the immediate protection of his Almighty arm. I fear that Christians in this country have too great a confidence in political institutions . . . [rather] than of the government of God."

**A. Sovereignty Not Usually Apparent** (Micah 5:2 cf. Mt. 2; Acts 4:27f; Prov. 16:9)

**B. God Ordains Rulers:** 1. For the good of all people – believer as well as unbeliever (Rom. 13:1-4; 1 Tim. 2:1f); 2. God determines who rules in those governments (Dan. 4:17, 32)

**C. God Controls Decisions** (Prov. 16:33 cf. 1 Chron. 24:5; Esther 3:7; Prov. 18:18; Lk. 1:9; Ezek. 21:18-22; 1 Kgs. 12:15): 1. God can and does work in the hearts and minds of rulers and officials of government to accomplish His sovereign purpose; 2. God sometimes causes government leaders or officials to make foolish decisions in order to bring judgment upon a nation [Our responsibility is to pray for the leaders of our government that they will make wise decisions. Our duty is to pray for wise decisions, but to trust when foolish and harmful decisions are made.]

**D. God Determines Military Victories** (Prov. 21:31; Judges 7:2-3, 22; 1 Sam. 14:6, 15, 20; 1 Kgs. 20:28f; 2 Kgs. 5:1; 2 Chron. 13:14-16; Ps. 33:16f)

**E. Enlarging Our Horizons** (look beyond our personal concerns and even our personal time to see that God has a plan to ultimately bless all the nations through Jesus Christ -- Gen. 12:3; 22:18; Gal. 3:8; Rev. 7:9)

4. What qualities are most secular people looking for in a political leader? What is the most important thing they want politicians to do for our country? According to God's Word what are the primary things we should be looking for in a leader? What are the most important things God will hold politicians accountable for in our country?
5. **George Washington** stated, "**It is impossible to govern without God and the Bible.**" Of the three branches of our government (Executive, Legislative & Judicial), the Legislative branch was held by God in the government of Israel. It was God who determined what the Laws would be in the land. Where is American government today in relationship to that concept? Why? What are the reasons people give as to why we can't look to the Bible for our laws? How do you respond to the statement, "You can't legislate morality."?
6. Why is a politician's view on abortion so important? Is that as important as the economy?
7. Why is America's relationship to Israel such an important issue politically? (Gen. 12:3)
8. What role does prayer play in the life of a godly citizen?