

Pastor Brian's
Midweek Message
August 24, 2022

"ELECTION DAY!"

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil." (Deuteronomy 30:15)

Yesterday here in Florida it was election day. A day to make a choice as to who we want to have as our civic, state and national leaders. The biggest and most publicized race was that of the Democratic Party's candidate for the gubernatorial (that's a funny word to say...at least I think so) election in November, who would face off against Governor DeSantis. Charlie Crist won that contest by a wide margin, almost 60% to 35% for Nikki Fried, with two other candidates that I had never heard of splitting the other 5% of the vote. Gov. DeSantis was unopposed, so there was no voting on the Republican side

The rest of the ballot was pretty low key. We got to vote in two races for county supervisor seats, one school board position and for one of the Charlotte County Airport Board seats. Why we're voting on who will be running the Punta Gorda Airport is beyond me. You'd think that the County Board could vet and approve those who would serve there than the electorate. That's just by opinion.

So for now, most of the campaign yard signs have been removed, and the radio ads have subsided. I'm sure that it won't be too long before the hubbub cranks up again for the general election in November. Let the mudslinging begin!

For us Christians, those who put our faith and trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior for this life and for all eternity every day is election day. As the Children of Israel, God's chosen people stood across the Jordan River from the Promised Land after 40 years of desert wandering, Moses gives his final speech to the people. This includes pretty much the entire Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy. He begins by recounting the history of their wilderness journey, from receiving the Law at Mount Sinai to the first approach to the Land of Promise, and the people's unbelief and failure to enter. Then the 40 years of aimless wandering in the wilderness, and finally the defeat of kings of the Amorites and Bashan. From there on Moses recounts the laws and commands that God gave to the people at Sinai. The title Deuteronomy comes from the Greek word "Deuteronomion" which means "repetition of the Law".

At the very end of his speech Moses says to the people point blank, *"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil." (30:15)* Every day we as God's people, His chosen New Testament people, have a choice before us. Empowered by the Spirit of God we can choose to follow Jesus, live by faith under His mercy and grace, or reject that mercy and grace by turning away toward the ways of the world and its prince, The Prince of Demons, Satan. Here we have God speaking to His people with Moses as His mouthpiece. He goes on...*"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."* (19-20)

Jesus tells us that no one can snatch us from His or the Father's hand (John 10:28-29), but we can most certainly crawl out of that hand of our own choosing. Most often that's not an instantaneous and conscious decision, but it happens over time as we are conformed to the world rather than to Christ. That's why Jesus tells us to *"stive to enter through the narrow door."* (Luke 13:24a) He, and He alone, is that narrow door that gives access to the kingdom of heaven. The devil and the sinful world around us is enticing us with their lies and schemes to look for the wide gate and follow the broad road that leads to destruction. We should pray every day that the Spirit of God living in us would empower us always to choose life, to follow Jesus, His wisdom, and His ways, so that we may live long in the land that He promises, that He has already given us, as a gift of His grace, received by faith.