

Weekly Bible Reading – Week 7

Sunday	Luke 9:1-50
Monday	Luke 9:51 – 10:42
Tuesday	Luke 11:1-54
Wednesday	Luke 12:1-53
Thursday	Luke 12:54 – 14:14
Friday	Luke 14:15 – 15:32
Saturday	Luke 16:1 – 17:19

“Is anyone among you suffering?

Let him pray”

— JAMES 5:13 —

Jo Byrnes * Joyce Coones * Sleatha Gore * Essielene
Henderson * Faye Kilpatrick * Sally Smith
Gary Ogden * Pat Hunt

Anniversary & Birthday

Sammy & Sally Smith (*Wed*) * Brittany Bailey (*Sat*)

Area Gospel Meetings

- *Archer*, September 14-19 * *Jim Lee*, preaching * 7:30 PM
- *Lakeview* in Lake City, September 21-24 * John Zellner, preaching * 7:30 PM
- *Trenton*, September 21-26 * *Dee Bowman*, preaching * 7:30 PM
- *Spring Warrior* in Perry, Sep 28 – Oct 3 * *Steve Dewhirst*, preaching * 7:30 PM

↪ Chiefland Church of Christ ↪

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida
Post Office Box 2539, Chiefland FL 32644 • (352) 493-1242

Things Above

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

— Colossians 3:1-2 —

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www.ChieflandChurchofChrist.com

Jamey Hinds, preacher

Being a Christian in an Election Year

By Travis Sweet • via **The Sower** (Vol. 53, No. 5)

Paul said, “I am a Jew of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city . . . And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this citizenship. Paul said, But I am Roman born” (Acts 21:39; 22:28). Paul considered it a privilege to be a native born Roman citizen. He sometimes used that fact as an advantage in his work. In Philippi, he was beaten and imprisoned unlawfully and due to his Roman citizenship by city leaders had to swallow their pride and escort him personally from of the jail where he and Silas had been kept (Acts 16:19-39). He will also was able to escape the death vowels of his own people by using his privilege as a Roman citizen to appeal his case to Caesar (Acts 25:11-12).

As in Paul's situation it is not a bad thing to be proud of one's *American* citizenship.

We are blessed to live in one of the greatest nations the Lord has ever allowed to exist. Thousands of people every day risk all, including their lives, in order to come to this country and to enjoy the blessings we often take for granted. Instead of complaining and feeling sorry for ourselves, as many seem to do, we should be thanking God everyday for our blessings and opportunities.

We are now in the middle of an election year. We will be able to elect a president, vice president, senators, representatives, and many other government officials. It is not wrong for Christians to have political views, but too often in election years, typically good Christians allow politics twist their view of what is truly important. So what must we do to be a faithful Christian example in an election year?

Some question the motives of others just because they don't see eye to eye on policies so they pre-judge them to be good or bad on that basis. Even Christians do this, but it shouldn't be. It is a privilege to live in a country where we have a vote as to who serves and what the policy will be. However, candidates and political philosophy are a matter of personal opinion and have no place in spiritual matters. I have known Christians who have not spoken to each other for years over political disagreements. If we allow politics to poison our relationship with other Christians, we will suffer eternally for it (Matt 7:1-3; Jn 13:34).

In an election year, some Christians become more devoted to politics than to Christ. It becomes easy to lose perspective on what is truly important. Jesus' disciples had radically different political views, but they put them aside for One who is more important than all. Simon the Zealot was a member of an organization that today would be applauded as a nationalist and possibly terrorist movement. Matthew was a tax collector employed by the Roman

government. The zealots looked upon tax collectors as traitors to their own people. Did Simon and Matthew get along? Evidently so! it is not wrong to have political convictions about economics, social policy, international policy, or anything else. However, we cannot be faithful to Christ and abandon his way by making politics first in our life (Matt 6:33). We must always be reminded that our citizenship is in heaven (Php 3:20).

We must also be reminded that God is not a Democrat, Republican, or even an American. That probably comes as a shock to some among us. To equate any political view to God's will is to be leading into dangerous territory (2 Jn 9). We cannot allow politics to destroy our relationship to God. It becomes sin when we began to think that God cannot possibly think anyway but our own. that was one sin that condemned Israel (Ps 50:21). We cannot make God the defender of our political views or we will be rebuked for it. On the other hand, we must submit to His wisdom (Dan 4:17).

As Christians, we must consider the positions taken by a candidate on issues that do affect the moral standards which God has set forth in His Word. For example, can one support a candidate for public office who *supports* abortion and promotion of homosexuality? By direction of the Holy Spirit, Paul explains that not only are the ones who practice abominations subject to God's wrath but also "consent with them that practice them" (Rom 1:32). This shows me that we'd better be careful in selecting those for whom we vote. We must pray for wisdom in order to do what is right (Jas 1:5).

Even in an election year, we must keep our eyes on the master every day (Lk 9:23). In any political discussion or disagreement we must act and live by the example Jesus gave (Jas 3:13).

— EDITED FOR SPACE —

