

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

Hail To The Chief

by Linus A. Mathis III

Next month America will be faced with some important decisions. Our choices must be made wisely as we will be living with them for at least four years. Furthermore, those we put in charge will approve and/or initiate legislation bearing the potential of bringing change to generations yet unborn. Because of this it is incumbent upon us to carefully weigh our options. I already know what my choices will be and encourage you to make yours based upon the dictates of your own heart. It's important that you exercise your rights and cast your vote for the candidate whose principles and ethics most closely resemble your own. You are the only one qualified to make this determination and I trust you will do so apart from opinions, either yours or those of others. What I mean is, that you will choose or have already chosen the Scriptures as the ONLY suitable model for principles and ethics. If you have done this your choices will be clear. You will also realize that even the best candidate will never be able to adequately address the needs of our nation. I don't mean to sound pessimistic or negative, I simply wish to be honest with you. The highest office in our land, and arguably the world, is up for grabs and those who wish to occupy it are each touting themselves as being "perfect" for the job. Ask anyone of them and they will assure you of their competence and ability to guarantee the proper solution on most, if not all, of a myriad of issues.

To choose one of their opponents, they will say, is to insure failure and bring about problems. Certainly some choices are superior but we would be foolish to believe that the best of our political hopefuls is capable of solving society's ills. Having said that, I urge you to vote. Don't be lulled into thinking that you shouldn't. If you choose not to vote, your non-vote will only serve as a vote for what you would consider the worst choice, not the best. No matter what, we are always able to choose what we deem "best," even if what is "best" is not ideal.

Politics, campaigns, issues and candidates aside, there is a choice to be made. There is one individual who truly stands in the gap for the common man. That individual is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only one able to lead us and be our salvation. He has all the solutions to the difficult problems we face. His motives are beyond reproach as he does nothing for self gain. His only motive is love.

John 5:30

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Glory! His attitude remains the most humble of all. Why? Because he has no personal agenda apart from executing the will of God. I want to tell you, our Saviour is awesome! He alone is worthy of being our Master and Lord for he alone is free from self and totally devoted in service to

God.

John 8:28,29

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Who can say, as Jesus did, I do always those things that please the Father? What man is so free of haughty self-sufficiency as to be able to exclaim, "I do nothing of myself?" Only Jesus Christ! He alone has earned this right!!!

What political platform can say it is built upon the following truth?

Philippians 2:3-11

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

It seems to me that strife and vainglory are the mainstays of the political process! Yet, when speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ these verses clearly describe his heart and soul. Furthermore, God exhorts all of us to think like His Son thinks. I would definitely vote for someone who thinks like Jesus. How about you?

Verse 5:

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

This is really THE ONLY acceptable way to think. Imagine how marvelous it would be if those who ran for public office adopted this mind set! Think of the impact this would have upon all of us!!!

Verses 6-8

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

What was God's response to Jesus' humility and obedience?

Verses 9-11

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Consider this passage as well:

Ephesians 1:19-23

And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,

Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

He is the one in charge, the only one in the Church with an official title. To him it is given to be the Head over all things to the Church. The rest of us are simply "members in particular." Jesus Christ is Lord, no one else, save God Himself! It is the Head, Jesus Christ, to whom all preeminence is relinquished.

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

This high position is one that the Lord Jesus Christ earned for himself. He did not inherit it, it was not conferred upon him, he earned it. He is the only man worthy of such distinction. God authenticates the Lord's position and testifies of it throughout Scripture. It is in Christ and only in Christ that man has hope. All life and history revolves around the Lord God and His Christ. There is salvation in no other, there is promise in no other, there is deliverance in no other.

After the miraculous healing of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple the rulers of the Synagogue and others accosted Peter and John. The following records Peter's divinely inspired response to their accusations and threats:

Acts 4:5-14

And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

If it's salvation (wholeness) that you need you must come to Jesus Christ. To be born again you must accept Jesus Christ. To be healed or receive an answer to prayer it must be through or in the name of Jesus Christ. For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Don't argue with it, just be thankful and praise God for the answers that reside in His Son. How thankful we should be to the Father that He saw fit to give us His Son that we might receive deliverance. Otherwise we would all be facing an irrevocable death sentence. Life is in Jesus Christ and in no other. Mankind, beginning with Adam, has (for the most part) brought us death. Whereas, Jesus Christ has brought us life. Eternal life in exchange for death!

I Corinthians 15:21,22

For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

It is obvious then, our choice is clear. Jesus Christ ought to be #1 in the poll of our heart. This will become manifestly clear to all at the Return.

Mark 13:26,27

And then shall they see the Son of

man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Coming in the clouds with great power and glory! And to gather his elect together, WOW!!!

I Thessalonians 4:16,17

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Oh Lord this is magnificent! Caught up together to meet the Lord in the air, to be with him forever from that moment on!

Revelation 1:7

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Apparently no one is going to miss this. He's coming back in power and glory. He is the Lord and the Head, the Chief. He is coming back as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Oh baby, I can hardly wait!!!

Before I continue, I would like to assure you that I greatly respect our American heritage and our

government which was intended by the Founders to be of the people, for the people and by the people. Therefore, I will cast my vote for our nations next president and urge you to do likewise. I love our country and consider myself a patriot. I will continue to cherish our freedoms and hopefully be a voice and a force to safe guard them. I love our flag and what it stands for and am deeply grateful to the men who shed their blood to defend it. The things I'm sharing with you are in no way meant to demean our political process. It is my belief that sound choices are made when life is in perspective. Nothing puts life in perspective like God's Holy Word. Nothing! Add to that the reality that this our nation is the first and only one whose base document was framed by men who not only believed the Bible but sought out the great truths therein as premise for governing. Voting is very important dear saint, for in voting we evidence our respect for the freedoms we enjoy and the costly price they incurred.

Consider our country's great symbol, the Flag:

Most Americans have forgotten (or were never taught) the meaning of our Colors. Red stands for valor, white for purity and blue for vigilance. Though this was not so when the Flag was adopted in 1977 it was true for the Great Seal.

From the book "Our Flag" published in 1989 by the House of Representatives...

"On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing a committee to devise a seal for the United States of America.

This mission, designed to reflect the Founding Fathers' beliefs, values, and sovereignty of the new Nation, did not become a reality until June 20, 1782. In heraldic devices, such as seals, each element has a specific meaning. Even colors have specific meanings. The colors red, white, and blue did not have meanings for The Stars and Stripes when it was adopted in 1777. However, the colors in the Great Seal did have specific meanings. Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, reporting to Congress on the Seal, stated:

"The colors of the pales (the vertical stripes) are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valor, and

Blue, the color of the Chief (the broad band above the stripes) signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice."

Also this from a book about the flag published in 1977 by the House of Representatives...

"The star is a symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun."

This poem is one of my favorites, I trust it will be among yours as well:

I AM YOUR FLAG

*I am your flag.
I am the flag of the united States of America*

*I am called Old glory.
I am called the Star Spangled Banner.
I am the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air.*

*I am the imminence of patriotism.
I am the trenches in France, Belgium,*

Anzio, Normandy, Omaha Beach, Guadalcanal, and Korea.

I am the jungle of Vietnam and the sands of Desert Storm and the streets of Bosnia.

*I am "One Nation under God."
I am the names of those who never came back to keep this republic free.
When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.*

*I am the symbol of America.
The home of the proud, the brave and the free. - Author Unknown*

As a child I loved to watch Red Skelton do his comedy. Mr. Skelton was a Christian and a patriot. Sadly, he has passed as of a number of years ago. But, he left in his legacy things our younger generation will scarce hear anymore. Here's one such example:

Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance by Red Skelton

As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by an observation of his own.

I - - Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge - - Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance - - My love and my devotion.

To the Flag - - Our standard; Old Glory ; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.

United - - That means that we have all come together.

States - - Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.

And to the Republic - - Republic--a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands

One Nation - - One Nation--meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible - - Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty - - Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice - - The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.

For All - - For All--which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

And now, boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and

two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: Under God. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer, and that would be eliminated from schools, too?

Red Skelton

How can we as Christians not be patriotic? We should be very patriotic if not partisan. There's a big difference between being a patriot and being a partisan follower of politics. The fact is, none of the "parties" will provide for us the answers we need. Nor will the candidates they support. As previously noted, only Jesus Christ is capable of that and only he is worthy of our allegiance. Our real "vote" goes to the Lord. When all is said and done, it is he that will rule this entire planet. And for us, who will be gathered together unto him, we will get to share with him in his rule.

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Upon completion of his 1,000 year reign the Lord hands all over to the Father, the Mighty Sovereign of Eternity! Corinthians gives a brief synopsis of the order of events of the end. Take note, the central theme of this chapter is resurrection life.

I Corinthians 15:22-28

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

When his 1,000 year reign is complete the Lord will hand all over to God, the Supreme Sovereign of Eternity! Such splendid truths flood our souls with hope, joy and enthusiasm. We are blessed indeed!

The King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ is THE man to lead us in THE millennium! Count on it because God's Word says so! So what if the problems of today give us pressure? We have a deliverance beyond all imagination awaiting us. All we need do is stay faithful and keep things in perspective. We do this with His Word and by seeking His help in prayer. The promise is sure, the promise is wonderful. Jesus Christ, God and His Word are constant. We are the only variables.

II Timothy 2:11-13

It is a faithful saying [the Word is faithful]: For if we be dead with

him, we shall also live with *him*:

If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

It's simple then, isn't it? Believe the Word of God! Keep God and His Word in the forefront of your mind. Be resolute in your choice and make His Word the basis for decision making. If you do, you will never go wrong.

Now go to the polls with confidence, knowing that you made the right choice long before you got there.

II Peter 2:1-6

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.
