

# JESUS 2020

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF ~~HAPPINESS~~  
HOLINESS

LIFE, WOLVES, AND CONTRACT LABOR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

Many campaigns in America have degenerated into contests to see which candidate can make more people afraid of his or her opponent. They do all they can to portray "the other guy" as evil, unfit, and bent on destroying life as we know it. Jesus warned His followers not to be deceived by "wolves in sheep's clothing." Join us for part two of **Jesus 2020** as we uncover the real enemy of American, why politicians are powerless to save us, and the identity of the only leader who can.

**Passage:** John 10

**Principle: Why we need a leader:**

We are like \_\_\_\_\_ and sheep must have a \_\_\_\_\_ .

**The threat we face from bad and incompetent leaders:**

1. Bad leader (John 10:1, 10 and Matthew 7:15-16)
2. Incompetent leader (John 10:12-13)
3. The REAL enemy (Ephesians 6:11-12)

**The test of the true leader:**

1. He calls His own by \_\_\_\_\_ and they recognize His voice (*John 10:14-15*)
2. He lays down His \_\_\_\_\_ for the sheep (*John 10:10*)
3. He has other \_\_\_\_\_ (*John 10:16*)

**Practice: How should Kingdom people respond in this election?**

1. Refuse to believe that either candidate is the \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Recognize where your own \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't measure up to Jesus and seek to \_\_\_\_\_ change from \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Look to \_\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_ of your soul (*1 Peter 2:25*)

**Daily Readings:**

DAY 1: JOHN 10  
DAY 2: MATTHEW 7  
DAY 3: PSALM 23  
DAY 4: EZEKIEL 34  
DAY 5: EPHESIANS 6  
DAY 6: ISAIAH 40  
DAY 7: 1 PETER 2

**Suggested Resources:**

**Books:** *BEFORE YOU VOTE*, BY DAVID PLATT  
*THE MYTH OF A CHRISTIAN NATION*,  
BY GREG BOYD

**Other sermons  
at [ssbc.org](http://ssbc.org):**

**LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING**  
(2016)  
**ONE NATION UNDER GOD**  
(2012)

**Resources on  
*RightNow Media*:**

*CULTURE SHOCK*, BY CHIP INGRAM  
*ONE*, BY DENNIS ROUSE

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The purpose of this series is not to try to persuade people to vote for one particular person or political party. Nor is the purpose to be critical of all parties in an attempt to disengage voters. The purpose is to try to get Jesus' followers to place their allegiance to Him and His kingdom above their personal political preference and to live as if His is the only Kingdom that will endure. Today's discussion is based on chapter one of David Platt's book, **Before You Vote: Seven Questions Every Christian Should Ask**.

## HANGOUT [WARMING UP TO THE TOPIC]:

1. To what extent should Christians use their voice in the political system? Should Christians vote? Why or why not? Is there biblical evidence for your position?

## HEAR [LISTENING TO GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE]:

### 2. God has given mankind dominion over the earth.

Read Genesis 1:27-28, Psalm 8:5-8, and Romans 13:1-7.

- What is the significance of God giving humans dominion over the earth?
- What impact did the fall (*Genesis 3*) have on this authority?
- What is God's purpose for governments?
- As Christians, how are we commanded to respond to the government?

### 3. God has called His people to seek justice for the welfare of their cities.

Read Micah 6:8, Jeremiah 29:4-7, and Mark 12:30-31.

- Can you think of specific examples throughout world history when the church has influenced governments toward greater justice?
- We hear a lot about justice today. How important is kindness and humility (*Micah 6:8*)? How can the church help promote those virtues in American politics today?
- How is the role of the church different from the role of government? Do you believe in the separation of church and state? Why or why not?

### 4. Throughout Scripture, God's people have called kings and governments to account. Read these examples:

- Moses and Pharaoh: Exodus 5:1
- Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel 4:27
- Esther and Haman: Esther 7:1-6
- Other examples include Jesus and Pilate, Paul and Felix, Paul and Agrippa, plus many more!

### 5. As a government "of the people, for the people, by the people", Christians in America are unlike the people we read about in the Bible. In a very real sense, we are not just the governed, but the governing. That makes us different, not only from believers in the New Testament, but it sets us apart from believers in China, North Korea, and in many other parts of the world today. As Uncle Ben said to Peter Parker (*Spiderman*), "With great power comes great responsibility."

- What unique privilege and responsibility do Christians in America have today that set us apart from most believers throughout history and around the world?
- Based on what we've read today, do you believe Christians should vote? Why or why not?

## HUDDLE [MAKING IT PERSONAL AND PRAYING TOGETHER - IN HUDDLES]:

6. Do you have close Christian friends and/or family who are voting differently from you this election cycle? What, if any, effect has that had on your relationship? Do you sense God speaking to you through this situation? If so, how? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.