

Minister's Message – March 2011

Election Time

Democracy is seen as the ideal model for the government of a society. People are crying out for the right to vote across the Middle East and around the world. We who have the right to vote treasure our privilege to do so. We exercise this right and do so in an informed way. Various people will be vying to be our local member. Before voting find out all you can about them – who they are, what they have done and what they propose doing.

Some will belong to a political party and we listen to what the leaders of these parties have to say and what they propose to do if elected to govern. We are particularly concerned about the laws they will make and how they will administer these laws. Some parties declare openly that they will make laws contrary to the clear teaching of God as we find in the Bible, such as abortion, euthanasia, homosexual marriage and the like. Mark them last on your ballot paper.

Some individuals may belong to a respected party but not be respectable people themselves. They may not be a person of moral integrity. In the end it is the individual that is elected to the parliament. Be informed about the character, as well as the policies, of the person you vote for. We may be disappointed in the choice of persons that we have to vote for, but it is our responsibility, as well as our right, to vote for the best person. After all, the people on the ballot paper have to be one of us.

We must pray as we go to vote; pray with thanks that we can vote, and pray that the Lord would give us God fearing men and women to represent us in the parliament. We must pray for whoever is elected, recognizing that the authorities that exist are appointed by God (Romans 13:1, I Timothy 2:2). We should remind our elected representatives that they are just that, representatives of the people, and warn them not to start acting in their own interests.

While we put a high value on democracy it is interesting that it is not exactly Biblical. In the nation of God's people it was God who appointed the civil leader. God appointed Saul as the first king of Israel – and God removed him because of his disobedience to the word of God. 'Man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart' is what God said to Samuel as he went to anoint David as the next king of Israel (I Samuel 16:7). Do you think it would be good if God, who knows our hearts, appointed our next premier or prime minister?

Before Israel had a king they had an even better form of government. They had a theocracy. God himself was their king. God ruled through prophets and judges that he chose and appointed. With God as king there was no corruption. With God as king there was absolute righteousness, justice, mercy. Imagine such a government!

This is not just something to imagine. When you confess your sin and believe in Jesus Christ he becomes your Lord. You have God to rule in your life. In the wonderful grace of God, righteousness, justice and mercy can be features of your life, and through your life and witness others will come to know these wonderful graces also.

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