

No Matter Who is President, Jesus is King

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The current election has proven to be a doozie! Perhaps it has just taken this long for years of excluding prayer from school, moral compromises in the law of our land, abortion, and a steady diet of violence (television and movies) to affect the civility and decorum of presidential politics. The unsettlement goes beyond the presidential election as we now find ourselves living in a day when terrorist attacks and cop killings are regular events. A string of firecrackers lit in a mall food court will send everyone to the ground praying for their lives. The bottom line is that many people seem unsettled, concerned and worried about everyday life and what the future will bring.

I have very good friends on both sides of the political aisle. The purpose of this article isn't to persuade you to a particular political party, candidate or economic philosophy. The purpose of this article is to encourage you as a Christian believer. This article is to remind you that God is still seated on his throne and to let you know that he is concerned for every aspect of your life. God will work on your behalf in the days to come!

Citizenship is in Heaven. I was born in Maryland and have American citizenship. I also have citizenship in Ireland and that affords me certain rights and privileges of citizenship in the European Union as well. Yet, I consider my primary citizenship to be in Heaven: "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20). Isn't that awesome? As a Christian, you are a citizen of heaven. We were made for a perfect life with God. That is why it can feel so strange at times to live in

a world broken with sin. The Word describes it as being "an alien," "a sojourner," or "a stranger in a foreign land": "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. (Ephesians 2:19-20) No matter how good life gets, it will always pale in comparison to the perfect, fully restored life that awaits us in heaven.

All authority comes from God. To keep things in a faith perspective, we must keep our sights focused on God and his kingdom. Never forget the miracle of creation: God spoke into nothing and made everything. We see this simple truth expressed in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

We believe that God needs no pre-existent thing or any help in order to create, nor is creation any sort of necessary emanation from the divine substance. God creates freely "out of nothing": If God had drawn the world from pre-existent matter, what would be so extraordinary in that? A human artisan makes from a given material whatever he wants, while God shows his power by starting from nothing to make all he wants. (CCC, 296)

The only reason that this world exists is because God spoke it into existence. In a similar sense, the Word reminds us that all authority (international, national, regional and local) comes from God: "For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God." (Romans 13:1b) Earthly leaders have their authority because God created it. No earthly authority (no matter how well nor how poorly it is exercised) can inhibit God's desire and ability to care for you.

You are a child of God. Secular culture refers to all people as "children of God." In fact, being born into the fallen state of original sin makes us a "slave to sin" (Cf. John 8:34) and "children of the wrath" (Cf. Ephesians 2:3), not children of God. It is through conversion and the grace of Baptism that one becomes a child of God: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption.

As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God." (Galatians 4:5-7)

You are a member of heaven's royal family. What could be better than being the heir to an industrial fortune? Being an heir to God's Kingdom would be better! "The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ..." (Romans 8:16-17a) Scripture calls the baptized believer who perseveres in faith in Jesus as Savior and dies in the state of grace a "victor." In the book of Revelation, Jesus promises that such a victor will share his throne: "I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne, as I myself first won the victory and sit with my Father on his throne." (Revelation 3:21)

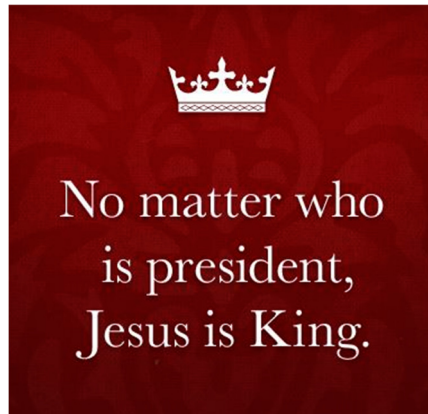
The baptized person becomes different in substance, a "partaker of the divine nature." In the sacrament of Baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to physically dwell within the baptized person. The baptized person becomes a "temple of the Holy Spirit": "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

I'm not insensitive to the needs and challenges that surround us. In this world, we will always be surrounded by the tides and turbulence of earthly authority. In God's plan, they are to affect us less than worldly royalty is affected. God will take care of us no matter what will come our way. God promises to be faithful, even when the odds don't look all that good:

I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall

at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you." (Psalm 91:2-7)

Earthly odds can stack up 11,000 to 1 against you and God will pull you through simply because you are his child, a member of heaven's royal family. "For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37b)



God cares for you. God will care for you in the days ahead. He knows your situation better than you understand it yourself. He will provide for your temporal needs and even your wants and desires. He will love and care for you because he is good. The Word of God directs us simply to seek after the Kingdom above all things and promises that God will provide and care for us in all matters: "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What

will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:31-33)

Seek fervently after the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. Entrust yourself to God's care and he will work out your retirement, healthcare and housing. He will give you healing for your body and victory over your adversaries. His desire to be your helper goes well beyond your ability to diagnose your situation and express your petitions. As a baptized believer, you are part of God's family. He will take care of you: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord... (Jeremiah 29:11-14a)



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