

Title: **"The Lord Will Reign Forever": How to Get Through an Election Year Without Getting an Ulcer**
Text: **Psalms 146**

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Big Idea

Every election is deemed "the most important of our lifetime." Our country and our very lives are said to be hanging in the balance. If we're not careful, we can get swept up in the narratives and the noise. We can attach our ultimate hope and dread to earthly princes instead of the one heavenly King. Jesus is the only one worthy of such things. Whoever else you vote for on November fifth, cast your vote for him!

The apocalyptically-charged rhetoric that politicians sometimes use, seems often to be a calculated effort to capitalize on yours and my sense of existential instability and vulnerability. They are aware of the fact that just living in a fallen world is a frightening and threatening endeavor. We are tenuous beings. Our lives play out in the shadow of death. We are trying desperately to survive. And, if we are to survive, we know that means we must: first, properly identify the problem; and, second, properly identify the solution. Who's the villain? Who's the hero? Who's the devil? Who's the Christ? And many politicians are ready to step into that existential tension and sort the matter out for us. "He's the threat." "She's the threat." "I'm the savior." "Vote for me."

(1) The Prince (or where *not* to attach your ultimate hope and dread)

"Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread" (Isa. 8:12-13).

(2) The LORD (or where to attach your ultimate hope and dread)

Observation #1: Both Sides of the Political Spectrum Are Represented

"In our political context, people on the Right and Left tend to emphasize different aspects of the government's work of dispensing justice. People on the Right tend to emphasize justice as righteously punishing wrongdoers, while people on the Left tend to emphasize lifting up the wronged. We believe the Bible emphasizes both (cf. Ps. 72:2, 4)" (Leeman and Naselli).

Observation #2: Both Sides of the Political Spectrum Only Come Together in Jesus!

If you look at that list the psalmist gave us there in vv. 7-9, it's pretty much an executive summary of Jesus' life and ministry, is it not? So on the one side, he cares for the oppressed and the poor. He extends a hand to the outcast and the marginalized. He feeds the hungry and heals the blind. He releases the prisoner. And yet, on the other side, we see that he also stands up for the law of God and orders his own life perfectly according to it. And we're told in the Scriptures that he's been appointed judge and, as such, he will ultimately bring the evil-doer to ruin and right every wrong in the end. Don't you see? Both sides of the spectrum come wonderfully together in him. Love and truth. Grace and law. Mercy and justice. They are like two lines running side-by-side throughout the entirety of his life. And they converge and collide climactically in his death for us at the cross. That's where we see with crystal clarity, in one and the same glance, how it is that a holy God can both uphold justice and extend mercy to a law-breaking sinner like me.

(3) The Choice

You might say this is the vote that really matters: Who will have my hope? Who will have my dread? Will I trust in God, fear God, praise God? Or will I give all that to someone else?



Reflection Questions

- How do you feel about the upcoming election? Ecstatic? Afraid? Hopeful? Indifferent? Your feelings matter. They tell you something about where your heart is with God.
- Do you spend more time watching the news or reading your Bible? What effect do you think that's having on your soul (good/bad)? What (if anything) needs to change?

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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

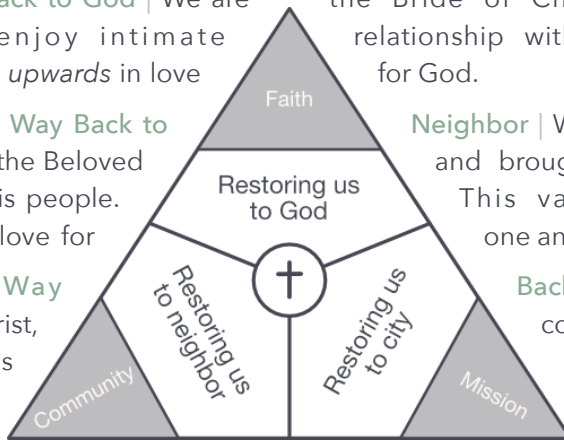
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Hangout - Today!

Meaningful community is hard to find in Silicon Valley, even in the church. Our congregation is spread out all over the city. But there is one day of every week when we all commit to gather together and worship our God: Sunday. It seems strategic to take this pre-existing momentum and work with it in an attempt to develop deeper community within our body. Therefore, on most first Sundays throughout the year we will invite the church to enjoy picnic-style afternoons together immediately following the service.

The Plan: After service, bring or buy your lunch and join us at the tables out back for a picnic-style afternoon (we may shift inside depending on weather). We'll also open the gym for people to play in!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Covenant Membership Class - Open Registration!

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

CityTeam's Grace Village Apartment Renovation

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Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.