The Bible explicitly expresses an obligation to our government that is derived from God's authority. As Americans, we are allowed the unique opportunity to influence our laws. For Christians, this means we must bring our biblical worldview to the public square. If we begin to remove ourselves from politics, this opens the door for moral decay and culture shift, inevitably changing the direction of a government that honors God.

#### 3. Political involvement shows respect for the Bible.

2 Timothy tells us that, "all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

"Every good work" definitely includes leveraging our faith to influence politics in a way that seeks to build God's kingdom on Earth. Believers must understand a biblical worldview speaks into every aspect of our lives, including some of today's most controversial issues.

Voting is an opportunity for us to love our neighbor (Matthew 22) by using our voice and our vote to influence the political landscape of our country. It's an opportunity for us to live out biblical principles in every area of our lives as we become a source for good in our communities and our nation (Jeremiah 29:7).

Another verse that captures this idea well is Galatians 6:10, which says, "Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people." And the previous verse is a powerful reminder to not give up and grow weary in doing good either.

It's time for all of us across the nation to awaken Christians to civic engagement in America to see God's principles advanced in our society. Our mission as the church of Jesus Christ seeks to advance Jesus' policies. We do not endorse any candidate or political party. Instead, we encourage Christians to bring the solutions of their faith into the ballot box.

Our nation's Founding Fathers exercised their faith while serving in government. Let their example encourage everyday citizens like you and me to let our faith impact our nation, too.



October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

#### **SERVICES**

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM Unity in Prayer & Youth: 6:00 – 7:00 PM Wednesday - Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid's Club Prayer  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before services

# PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



*Wednesday Bible Study* – we continue our new study, "The Great Disappearance" – Rapture of the church, taken from Dr. David Jeremiah's study.

*Flagging Class* – Wednesdays, at 6:00 PM prior to our Bible study. Special thanks to all the

participants of this praise ministry.

# FUTURE EVENTS

*Thanksgiving Dinner* – please plan to join us a fellowship dinner following our morning service. More information to follow.

*Ladies Christmas Party* – December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. here at the church. For any questions, please see Caroline Zeyak.

*Christmas Program Rehearsal* – Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M.

*Christmas Program* – Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. Let's invited family and friends to enjoy what the Lord will do.

*Kid's Club Christmas Party* – Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

**Operation Christmas Child** – boxes are due the 24<sup>th</sup> of November. See the bulletin insert for more information.

Rev. Bill Pier Jr., Campus Pastor Rev. Arthur Henderson – Pastor Pastor's cell phone: 518.567.9788 Location & Mail: 292 Hays Road, Rensselaer, NY 12144 Office Telephone: 518.479.3439 Email: pastorpier@newlifeaogeg.org Webpage: http://www.newlifeaogeg.org Guest Wi-Fi: NewLifeGuest – password: NewLife292 Instead of kings who wield absolute power for entire lifetimes, America was established as a nation ruled by the people. The government's ability to wrest power from the people was reined in by an ingenious system of checks and balances. But what is often missed by pundits today was the expectation of our Founding Fathers, all of whom held great reverence for God and Scripture, that leaders possess a moral compass, and that virtue, justice, and righteousness were essential for government not to trample on the God-given rights of the people.

George Washington warned America in his first inaugural address never to depart from its founding principles, which he clearly believed flowed from God. He declared, "the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained."

Christians share the same spiritual obligation our Founding Fathers felt to express our faith in the political and public sphere. Here are three reasons why:

# 1. Political involvement demonstrates love for our neighbors.

Jesus told us in Matthew 22 that the greatest commandment is to love God with all that we are and He went on to say that the second greatest commandment is to "*love your neighbor as yourself*."

Using our voice and our vote as Christians to influence the political landscape of our country is one way we can show love to our neighbors. Good laws and a well-run government are essential to produce a flourishing society. Obeying these two commandments includes seeking legislation that protects the sanctity of life, religious freedom, marriage, and family, and that compassionately cares for those in need. Engaging in politics allows us to effect change and is essential for believers who love their neighbors.

#### 2. Political involvement demonstrates reverence for God.

Paul writes in Romans 13 that Christians should respect and be subject to their governing authorities because "*there is no authority except that which God has established.*"