HELPING OUR NATION

Intro: With the election drawing near, many are encouraging people to vote. There is obviously some major issues facing our nation. Voting based upon Christian principles will certainly help our nation. However, there are other ways we as Christians can help our nation.

I. PRAY

A. The Bible teaches us to pray for our leaders.
   1. Ezra 6:10 “That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.”
   2. 1 Tim. 2:1-2 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

B. We should pray our leaders to lead us in the way of righteousness.
   1. Psa. 33:12 “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”
   2. Psa. 72:1 “Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king’s son.”
   3. Pro. 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

C. Pray our leaders lead us in a way of true peace.
   1. Jer. 29:7 “And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.”
   2. 1 Tim. 2:1-2 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”
   3. This peace is for the purpose of saving souls; 1 Tim. 2:3-4 “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

II. PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. Righteousness blesses a nation.
   1. Psa. 33:12 “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”
   2. Pro. 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

B. Lack of righteousness contributes to a nation’s demise.
   1. The flood
      a. Gen. 6:5, 7, 11-12 “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually....7And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them....11The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12And GOD looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.”
   2. Sodom and Gomorrah; Gen. 18-19
   3. Israel during the period of the judges; Jud. 17:6 “In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

C. Christians individually must live righteous lives.
   1. 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
   2. Psa. 119:172 “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteous.”
3. Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'”

D. **Our lives as Christians consists of action:**
1. Prayer alone is as good as faith alone: both are dead.
   a. Jam. 1:6 “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”
   b. James goes on to emphasize faith must be joined with action in the next chapter.
2. Jam. 1:22-25 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
3. We must make sure we are living the lifestyle God desires.

E. **If you really want to help our nation: study God’s Word and live according to it; then God will bless you and the nation.**
1. God would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah for 10 righteous souls.
2. Acts 27:24 “Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee [276 souls on board].”
3. Has and is God sparing this nation because of those who are righteous?

III. **PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OTHERS**

A. **Christ gave us a great commission to teach others.**
1. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 19Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
2. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

B. **Christ was the greatest of all reformers.**
1. He did not try to involve Himself in governmental affairs.
2. He tried to change the hearts of people.
3. By changing the hearts of people, the laws would be changed
   a. There would not even be any need for laws to be changed.
   b. 1 Tim. 1:8-10 “But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; 9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;”
   c. Passing a law forbidding abortion will not stop it; changing people’s attitudes to respect life will put a stop to it.

C. **We are to spread the Gospel.**
1. We pray for our leaders; 1 Tim. 2:1-2 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”
   a. To lead a quiet and peaceful life.
   b. The purpose is so we can be free to teach others; 1 Tim. 2:3-4 “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
2. Righteousness exalts a nation.
   a. Pro. 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”
   b. The more righteous people, the more God will bless the nation.
   c. The parable of the leaven; Mat. 13:33 “Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.”

3. Parable of the sower; Luke 8
   a. When the Word goes into good hearts, it will reap a harvest.
   b. We must continue to sow the seed.
      (1) Not everyone will be receptive (the majority will not).
      (2) Those who have the good and honest heart will bring forth fruit.

Conclusion: If we will pray, practice righteousness, and preach the Gospel, a Christian can do the greatest amount of good for this (or any) nation. This will do a greater amount of good than voting as much good as that can do.