

Dave Gustavsen – Land of the Free
FREE TO RISE ABOVE OUR CULTURE

Hebrews 11:13-16

Sermon Based Questions – November 20, 2016

Introduction:

1. Describe a past leader that you or the country had a huge reaction to, but who ended up not making too much of a difference either way. What happened?
2. Describe a store or company or product that you felt would always be around, but has gone away. Why do you think it disappeared?

Understanding:

3. Daniel 2:44 describes all kingdoms coming to an end. In the light of that, how do you strike the correct balance between being patriotic to the USA, AND knowing that Jesus is the one we are to worship?
4. Read what Jesus said about his kingdom in John 18:36. How does this affect your view if you are an ardent Republican or Democrat? Does it mean we should not care about political issues at all? Why?
5. Consider today's scripture in Hebrews 11:13-16. What does it mean to "not receive the things promised" and to be "foreigners and strangers on earth"? In the light of that, describe what it would mean if America in fact became "great again".
6. Look at God's sovereignty in Daniel 2:20-21. In the light of this, consider the issues of nuclear weapons, minorities and immigrants. What is the distinction between fear and concern?
7. Philippians 2:3-4 talks about our own interests and others' interests. Think of an issue where you disagree with the other side. Are you able to separate your disagreeing on the issue from questioning their motives?
8. The Czech political leader Vaclav Havel said "Genuine politics -- even politics worthy of the name -- the only politics I am willing to devote myself to -- is simply a matter of serving those around us: serving the community and serving those who will come after us." Evaluate this quote in the light of today's teaching. How does it apply to us?
9. Consider Pastor Dave's six priority words about how the gospel impacts us. How do each of the 6 affect how we react in political discussion and actions? 1. *humble*, 2. *compassionate*, 3. *slow to judge*, 4. *forgiving*, 5. *sacrificial*, 6. *generous*
10. Read about eternity in Revelation 21:1-5. Compare the promises here with the ones that Clinton and Trump made. How can this help us to bridge the gaps and divisions in our country?

Application:

11. Apply the teachings from today's sermon to whatever encounters you have with someone from the other party during the upcoming holidays. Is it possible to disagree about issues, while listening to and respecting each other?
12. Proverbs 21:1 says the king's heart is like water in the hand of God—He directs it wherever he wants. How would it affect you if you took that to heart? It's time to get serious about praying. Pray that our new president and our other leaders will have humility and teachability and compassion and wisdom that's beyond themselves.