

From the November 4, 2008, Issue

## **The Most Important Election Ever . . .**

...was the Father, Son and Spirit's decision to Elect, or choose, you to be included in His Relationship forever in Jesus!

In Jesus, you and every other person you know, including John McCain and Barack Obama, have been elected to be at the highest place of honor and privilege forever! And in fact, all of humanity is seated, truly and mysteriously, in that relationship of privilege right now, in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:4-6)!

That is who you are. That is who the members of all political parties are. That is who the presidential candidates in this year's election in the U.S. REALLY are, too! That is the reason why no matter which candidate gets elected as President of the United States, and no matter how much more difficult our economic times may get, we all have a reason for REAL hope!

It is this kind of fundamental thinking, flowing directly out of the Mind of Christ, that should be guiding the thoughts of those who say they believe in Jesus, the Son of God, no matter who they decide to vote for. In other words, come hell or high water—or greater peace and prosperity—with the next President, in the end, all of humanity is selected and elected to BE at God's Right Hand! In fact, the sooner we come to embrace that Truth, the more we can experience and BE that right now! Talk about a great political agenda and solution to the world's problems!

Now, don't get me wrong here! I am not suggesting some spiritualized view of choosing a candidate that says "It doesn't matter who you vote for because it is all in God's hands!" It DOES matter who you vote for and we DO get to share in Jesus' actual humanity, IN OUR DARKNESS, right here on earth! Part of the importance of realizing that the Son of God has become flesh is to know that He shares His Life with us regardless of our condition. No matter how tainted we are by unbelief, our inclusion in God's Life is NOW!

However, my point is that no matter how great and researched your vote for a certain person may be, you are still so filled with sin, and the candidates so filled with sin, that you wouldn't want to trust any of those persons!! Yikes!!

Tying the thoughts of the last two paragraphs together, what I believe that Jesus (**The Gospel and Good News in His own Person!**) is saying to us can be noted in the variety of things that the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to talk about within the context of our election as God's Children in **Romans Chapter 8**.

In order to clarify what I am trying to communicate I will compare our typical voting practices for the President of the United States with how Jesus addresses us right in the middle of those practices.

First, we listen to the candidates on television debates, read the paper, search the Internet, or talk with friends more informed about the political process. Even after thorough and diligent research we sometimes still find ourselves very confused on the issues, and that doesn't even include the "mother-in-law" research that gets thrown in!

**Encouragingly, here is how the Spirit educates us in all of this doubt, worry and pain:**

God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! <sup>15</sup>This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" ... <sup>17b</sup>... We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him! <sup>18</sup> That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. <sup>19</sup> The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. <sup>20</sup> Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in <sup>21</sup> until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens. <sup>22</sup> All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. <sup>23</sup> These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. <sup>24</sup> That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. <sup>25</sup> But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy. (Romans 8:14-25, Message Bible)

Doing our best, we participate in the research and election process by praying. We pray for wisdom in thinking through the issues. We pray about choosing a candidate who would be best for our times. We then pray and actually vote for a specific candidate we believe is the best answer to our prayers. This is the best we can do in our darkness and it is a good thing to do. Even so, we can still find ourselves fretting even after praying, but this is all part of our current share in the life Jesus shares with His Father in the Spirit.

**Encouragingly, here is how the Spirit educates us regarding all of our prayer and detailed research:**

<sup>26</sup> Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. <sup>27</sup> He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. <sup>28</sup> That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good (Romans 8:26-28, Message Bible).

Finally, we get the President of our choice OR the other one, and soon enough, this President is doing some of what they promised to do and a whole lot of what they promised not to do!

We then have a choice. We can start complaining about how bad the political process is. We can get stressed with the disappointment we feel. We can fuss about how we are going to switch parties next voting time or not vote at all. Worst of all, we can find ourselves humiliated and persecuted by the people who poke fun at us for "being smart" and voting for the current President who is not doing well at all, and hear their taunting, "I told you so! You should have listened to me, 'Mrs. Research!'"

**Encouragingly, here is what the Spirit speaks to us in the Father, Son and Spirit's choosing and Electing of all of humanity, in Jesus (even as evil forces of spoiled goodness go to work trying to**

**discourage us in a spirit of exclusion):**

<sup>16</sup> God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. <sup>17a</sup> And we know we are going to get what's coming to us - an unbelievable inheritance! ... <sup>29</sup> God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. <sup>30</sup> After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun. <sup>31</sup> So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? <sup>32</sup> If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? <sup>33</sup> And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? <sup>34</sup> Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us - who was raised to life for us! - is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. <sup>35</sup> Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: <sup>36</sup> They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. <sup>37</sup> None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. <sup>38</sup> I'm absolutely convinced that nothing - nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, <sup>39</sup> high or low, thinkable or unthinkable - absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us. (Romans 8:16-17a, 29-39, Message Bible).

Finally, this word Election, or “eklektos” in the Greek, literally means what you can sense that it means: “select, chosen and elect”, or by implication “favorite”! Yes! - the most important Being and Relationship in the Universe has chosen to lavish His favor on, and elect, every human being in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:1-12!), including all people on all sides of a presidential campaign.

We REALLY ARE right in the center of the most important election ever; Our Divine Election into the forever self-giving and marvelously mind-boggling love and blessed Family of the Father, Son and Spirit!

May that Election always get our most enthusiastic vote as we believer's campaign in Christ till the whole world is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the seas!!!

*~ Tim Brassell*