**2020 Election Message**

*I Voted Now What?!*

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

Outline:

**I. Preserve the Unity**

A. It begins with our walk

B. It’s preserved via our diligence

**II. Be Subject to Governing Authorities**

A. Authority’s origin

B. Authority’s role

C. Our response

**III. Honor Political Leadership**

A. Submission

B. Honor

**Intro:**

Hebrews 12:1–2

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Q**Your witness is on display and we have a cloud of witnesses around us – watching

**Watch Your Witness**

More people have been brought into the church by the kindness of real Christian love than by all the theological arguments in the world, and more people have been driven from the church by the hardness and ugliness of so-called Christianity than by all the doubts in the world.

William Barclay, Leadership, Vol. 9, no. 3.

**Unhappy Christians Hurt Witness**

I once asked a deeply religious man if he considered himself a truly pious person. He responded that while he aspired to be one, he felt that he fell short in two areas. One of those areas, he said, was his not being a happy enough person to be considered truly pious.

His point was that unhappy religious people reflect poorly on their religion and on their Creator. He was right; in fact, unhappy religious people pose a real challenge to faith. If their faith is so impressive, why aren't these devoted adherents happy? There are only two possible reasons: either they are not practicing their faith correctly, or they are practicing their faith correctly and the religion itself is not conducive to happiness. Most outsiders assume the latter reason. Unhappy religious people should therefore think about how important being happy is—if not for themselves, then for the sake of their religion. Unhappy, let alone angry, religious people provide more persuasive arguments for atheism and secularism than do all the arguments of atheists.

Dennis Prager, Happiness Is a Serious Problem (Regan Books, 1998), p.4;

**QI. Preserve the Unity**

**Q**A. It begins with our walk

**Q**Ephesians 4:1–2

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

**Q**1 John 1:6–7

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 2:6

6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

**Q**1. -worth of your call

Axios = suitable, proper

**Q** Colossians 1:10

10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**Q**2. -the big 4

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

Humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance

-***tapienophrosune*** – correct estimate of ourselves, lowliness of mind, unworthiness

Gentleness – ***praǘtēs*** – (really meekness) -a condition of mind and heart which demonstrates gentleness, not in weakness, but in power. It is a balance born in strength of character.

Patience – ***makrothumia*** – forbearance with people, self-restraint – having the ability to enact vengeance but choosing not to

Tolerance –***anechomai*** - bear with, endure

**Q**B. It’s preserved via our diligence

**Q**Ephesians 4:3

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

-diligent = spoudazo- earnestness, eager

**Q**2Pe 1:5 NASB - 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in [your] moral excellence, knowledge,

2Pe 3:14 NASB - 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

**QII. Be Subject to Governing Authorities**

**Q**A. Authority’s origin

**Q**Romans 13:1–2

1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

-From God, established by – to arrange, set, fix, order

**Q**B. Authority’s role

**Q**Romans 13:4

4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

-minister for good

**Q**C. Our response

**Q**Romans 13:7

7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

-render ***apodídōmi*** (do something in fulfillment or obligation)

Tax, custom, fear, honor

**QIII. Honor Political Leadership**

**Q**1 Peter 2:13–14

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

1 Peter 2:17

17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

**Q**A. Submission

- ***hupotássō*** - To place under in an orderly fashion

B. Honor

- ***timáō –*** esteem, reverence

-honor all people

-honor the King (President)

**QApplication**

Be Obedient, Preserve unity, Be Subject to the Government, Honor others.

Watch your Witness

Listen to the Holy Spirit more than your news feed