God's Word and Your Vote (Part 2): Constitution



The Introduction

- The BIG Idea: For God's glory, you should vote responsibly.
 - ➤ God's Glory ~ What does the Bible say about God and government? → The Why?
 - > Responsibly ~ What laws does the U.S. Constitution allow at Federal, State, and Local levels? > The What?
 - ➤ Vote ~ How should Christians vote on the particular issues, responsibly considering what the Bible and Constitution dictate? → The How?

The Constitution and Our Responsibilities

- The Founders
 - > The Context:
 - > The Sources:
 - Bible
 - "Enlightenment" Thinkers:
 - Montesquieu: Separation of Powers
 - Blackstone: Common Law (~ biblical principles)
 - Locke: Natural Law, Natural Rights, Social Compact, and Limited Government
 - > The Consequences: The American Revolution
 - Return to First Principles, Natural Law and Natural Rights ~ Based on God's Law/Biblical Principles
 - Text: **Psalm 96
 - Importance of Limited Government → Separation of Powers → Text: **Isaiah 33:22
- The Documents
 - > The Declaration of Independence

> The Federalist Papers

> The Constitution

- Distinctives:
 - Separation of Powers
 - Enumerated Powers

- Principles of Understanding:
 - Originalism
 - ◆ Definition: Trying to understand the original meaning, understanding, and intent of the Framers based on the language and definitions of their day versus a "Living Constitution" (Antonin Scalia).
 - Textualism
 - ◆ Definition: Textualism means interpreting the text of a written law without going beyond the intent of those legislators who made the law. Judges have no authority to pursue "broader purposes." Judges should interpret legal text as written, not as it "should've been written..."

The Conclusion

- So What?
 - > Summary of our Government
 - > Our Responsibility to (God-ordained) Government
 - Text: **Deuteronomy 31:24-29

God's Word and Your Vote: Select Bibliography



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