

Don't Let Politicians Manipulate You for a Vote

According to the media, there are millions of evangelicals in the U.S.! These evangelicals are targeted by the political candidates, particularly the Republicans. Trump, Cruz, Kasich and Rubio have all talked about their faith. Trump said he is a strong Christian and that the Bible is his favorite book. Cruz frequently emphasizes his evangelical credentials. Rubio has publicly stated that he believes in "Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior."

If there are millions of "evangelicals" in the U.S., one wonders why our country is declining morally and spiritually. Other than at election time, where are all of the evangelicals? I suspect many of the so-called evangelicals could not explain what "evangelical" means. The word "evangelical" appears to have been held hostage by politicians and is used to refer to those who go to church (at least occasionally) and who are conservative politically.

Let's be careful we are not being manipulated and used by politicians who want our vote. The message of the New Testament is easily lost in the shrill rhetoric of those who use "evangelicals" for their own political ambitions.

While every authentic follower of Jesus Christ should vote and be actively involved in the political process, real change will come to the United States—not through the posturing and plans of politicians, but by the power of the Holy Spirit transforming lives. Far too many "evangelicals" appear to be putting their faith in a particular politician or a political party. "Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God" (Ps. 20:7).

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a preacher of grace and shepherd of souls. God has gifted him to preach His Word with power and clarity, shepherd His people with love and compassion, and lead His church with wisdom and humility.