



NOVEMBER 1 BEFORE

JESSE TINK, EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF LEADERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

The news on your TV, stack of political ads in your mailbox and that friend of yours on Facebook would all have you believe what happens on November 3, 2020, will determine whether there is hope for your future and our world. In our first of a two-part series on the election, Pastor Jesse helps us as Christians think through what this election means. Although it's important to vote, stay informed and be engaged citizens, the only message we have full confidence in is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

1. In this election season, Pastor Jesse observed many Christians are feeling tired and judged. What has been your experience with this over the past few months?
2. **Read 1 Peter 1:3-5.** Jesus is our only living hope. Why can't we find our hope in politics?
3. Pastor Jesse pointed out that Christians in the book of Acts [4:2, 17:32, 23:6] were persecuted for one central message they wouldn't back down from—that Jesus rose from the dead. What can Christians in 2020 learn from persecuted Christians in Acts?
4. "It was just another year where Jesus holds the keys of sin and death until one day He puts all of those away for good. And everything that 2020 has brought our way will bow to the risen Jesus." What comfort can we draw from this truth shared by Pastor Jesse?

DO SOMETHING

1. If you haven't already, make a plan to vote.
2. Look ahead at your calendar and set aside time to pray this week for our country, elected officials and that as the election results are made known, Christians will conduct themselves with love, grace and humility both online and in person.
3. If you think you'll be tempted to treat others in an ungodly way if the election results are not what you want, consider how to mitigate this temptation now. It may be helpful to ask a trusted friend to be your accountability partner in post-election conduct. For others, you could deactivate your social media now to give yourself time to process and pray before posting online.

RESOURCES

1. Read *Before you Vote: Seven Questions Every Christian Should Ask* by David Platt.
2. Read *Compassion (&) Conviction: The AND Campaign's Guide to Faithful Civic Engagement* by Justin Gilboney, Michael Wear and Chris Butler.
3. Watch *Talking Points: The Perfect Blend of Politics & Religion* by Andy Stanley on RightNow Media.