

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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## SERMON OUTLINE

# FAITH AND POLITICS

ISAIAH 45:1-13 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Isaiah 45 describes God's plan to deliver Israel from Babylonian captivity through Cyrus, the Persian king. Isaiah prophesied around 700 B.C., approximately 200 years before Cyrus' birth. In the first year of his reign (538 B.C.), Cyrus allowed the Jewish people to return from Babylonian exile and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. This event was also prophesied by Jeremiah, though he focused on the duration of the exile rather than specifically naming Cyrus (cf. Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1).

Isaiah's prophecy declares that God would empower Cyrus to conquer nations, expand his kingdom, and acquire great treasures. God granted these things so that Cyrus would recognize Him—the God of Israel—who had called him by name. God's actions were intended to fulfill His purposes for Israel, His chosen people (Isaiah 45:1-4).

God asserts that He alone is the sovereign Lord. Although Cyrus did not know Him, God would equip him so that all nations would acknowledge Him as the One True and Living God, fully in control of all things. He forms light and creates darkness; He brings prosperity and allows calamity (Isaiah 45:5-7).

God assures the Israelites that He will pour out His blessings and righteousness. This was fulfilled when they returned from exile, experiencing salvation and deliverance through Cyrus. However, this event was only a partial fulfillment of God's promise, which will be fully realized at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 45:8).

Ultimately, God affirms His sovereignty over all people because He created everything. He declares that it is inappropriate for humans to question His

decisions. Anyone who resists God's plan risks facing His judgment. Just as clay had no right to question the potter, Israel had no right to challenge God—her Maker and the Creator of all things—regarding His decision to use Cyrus to fulfill His purposes (Isaiah 45:9-13).

God's choice to "anoint" a pagan king for His divine plan demonstrates His absolute sovereignty over creation and every nation on earth. In this sermon, we will discover an essential truth about our faith that should shape both our inner posture and outward conduct toward the political realities of our nation. ✱

# HONOR GOD IN ELECTION SEASON

REV. MARK MAGANGAT

Election time brings a lot of emotions, discussions and even tension. Many Christians wrestle with how to engage in politics while staying true to their faith. The world around us is filled with debates, disagreements and division. But, as followers of Christ, we are called to reflect His character in everything we do—including how we approach elections.

I remember the sense of fulfillment I felt when I voted for the first time in the last election. Casting my vote made me realize how important it is to have a voice in shaping the direction of our nation. It gave me a deeper appreciation for the freedom we have to participate in the democratic process, something that many around the world do not experience. It also reminded me that as Christians, we have a responsibility to vote with wisdom, seeking God's guidance in every decision. Though politics can be divisive, I saw how elections can also bring people together in meaningful conversations about values, leadership and the future. It was more than just marking a ballot—it was participating in a process that shapes the future of our country. I realized that voting is both a privilege and a responsibility, an opportunity to stand for values that honor God. It reminded me

that while leaders may change, our calling as Christians remains the same: to be salt and light in the world. It was a meaningful moment, knowing that I was fulfilling my right and responsibility as a citizen. At the same time, I was reminded that my ultimate allegiance is to God. My choices should reflect His will above all else. With that in mind, here are four key imperatives that should shape our attitude during this season:

### Pray Before You Participate

Before voting or sharing opinions, we must pray. The Bible tells us to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2). We should ask God for wisdom in choosing candidates who align with biblical values. Instead of letting emotions or personal interests guide us, we must seek His direction in making decisions that honor Him.

### Put Kingdom Values Above Political Loyalties

Our first allegiance is to Jesus Christ—not a political party. While politics play a role in society, they must never take the place of our faith. When we consider candidates and policies, we should ask: Do they reflect godly principles? Are they just and fair? Do they promote righteousness? Our vote should reflect our commitment to God's truth above all else.

## PARSON TO PERSON

### Be a Peacemaker, Not a Divider

Election seasons often lead to heated discussions, even among Christians. But the Bible calls us to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). Instead of arguing or attacking others, we should engage in respectful conversations. We can stand firm in our convictions while still showing love and kindness. Our words should encourage, not tear others down.

### Trust in Christ, Not in Politicians

No leader can solve all our problems or bring lasting peace. Our hope is not in governments but in the sovereignty of God (Psalm 146:3). While we have a duty to vote wisely and responsibly, we must always remember that God is in control. No matter who wins or loses, He remains on the throne.

During this election season, let's pray, uphold biblical truth, promote unity, and keep our trust in God. May our actions reflect our faith and point others to Christ.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!" - Psalm 33:12 (ESV) ✱

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