

From the Pastor's Desk,

Fall, as we've witnessed is upon us. The beauty of the trees is breathtaking displaying the beauty of Freedom they give replicating the light of freedom given from our Creator. This November, we are also given a breathtaking moment coming together to vote our consciences for our Michigan governing body. Not only is this a time we represent freedom. It is a time of voicing who we are as Michiganders, and the right for our freedom to vote our voice.

Though many might believe that freedom today has been compromised. Political correctness is not the avenue I wish to travel in this newsletter. I want to convey how important freedom is and how so many have paid the ultimate price for us to enjoy the pleasure of freedom that we now experience, through our God and forefathers in our constitution. Jesus says in the Gospel of John 15:12-17 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you." Those that paid that price laying down their lives for this country have paid the ultimate price for us. They died for what they believed, for freedom's sake! We have a responsibility to those men and women that lost their lives for the freedom we still have. Voting this election is important because as many might believe freedom weighs in the balance.

As Americans and Christians, we are called to vote our consciences. Within each one of us, who are Americans, we understand the imperative to go out and ease our consciences, vote! In doing so we represent the true voice of freedom despite what has happened in the past when elections were won or lost due to incompetence of those tampering with ballots. Never are we to give up our love of the freedom we still have. We are to fight to the death to keep what our forefathers and mothers fought so hard to receive when this country began. One obstacle I perceive is the thought of many who say, "Vote, why it's rigged what's the use?" Our vote is our voice to keep what we believe—and allow our freedom to continue to ring in the liberty bells that chime in our hearts for our votes for the freedom. If it is essential to vote it's foremost of essence we believe as Christians to continue to worship, love, trust God that all things are controlled by Him. Voting eases our consciences for freedom's sake.

I conclude with this from Romans 13:11, ¹¹ "Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day,

not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” This midterm, let Freedom Ring. Vote your conscious! Amen.