

Minister's Message – November 2007

Promises, Promises, Promises

'If elected I will do this, I will do that'. As the Federal election nears all we hear is bigger and bolder promises from the politicians. And it is all about money. 'We will spend money on this and money on that'. Is this all we want from our leaders. Will you be voting for the party that promises to put more money in your pocket, or give more money to your favourite concern? In some countries the politicians actually fork out the money before an election to buy your vote! They go around giving people gifts so they will vote for them.

Will the politicians keep their promises? Usually they say that circumstances have changed so they are unable to do what they said. Politicians are of course just people like everyone else. They are not in control of this world as much as they think they are. Can they break the drought? Can they stop us from getting sick?

Wisdom from the Bible tells us to say *if it is the Lord's will we shall live and do this or that* (James 4:15). Do not boast about what you will do tomorrow or next year or if elected to government. Rather say, 'if it is the Lord's will I will do this or that'. What a different election campaign it would be to hear such words! Jesus told the story of a certain businessman who made a huge profit in his business (Luke 12). He had such a great harvest that he did not know what to do with all the produce. He decided to build bigger barns to store all his profits. He said to himself, 'your life is secure for a long time; eat drink and be merry'. God was not pleased with this man, and that very night he died.

Do you think like this man? Many of us do. And our governments think this way also. All are focussed on this one thing – money and a secure future. We live in very prosperous times. 'We have never had it so good'. And what do we think about – getting more and more for ourselves, and making our life more and more comfortable (and getting more and more obese!). Meanwhile the poor remain poor, and the gap between rich and poor increases. What about the poverty in surrounding nations? Not a word has been said about increasing our aid budget. Why? Because as a nation we are just like the rich fool in the story Jesus told.

What do you look for in the leader of the nation? Do you simply want one who will put more money in your pocket? Are you not concerned about morality and ethical issues? Do you pray for a leader who will take God's laws seriously when He says *there should be no poor among you* (Deuteronomy 15:4)? Do you look for a leader who takes seriously the command not to murder, which includes unborn babies? What about a man with wisdom to see the havoc that gambling, pornography and drinking are doing to thousands of families in our nation.

Ultimately the leaders we get will be those whom the Lord appoints (Romans 13:1). But this does not preclude you from making an informed and prayerful vote. Whoever is elected we are to pray for them (I Timothy 2:2). We pray that they will serve the people and not just themselves or a select group. We pray that they will honour and fear God. We pray that they will focus on morals more than money. *Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these other things will be added to you* (Matthew 6:33).

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