

Election 2016 in Biblical Perspective  
“The Issues of the Day”  
I Peter 2:11–17  
Dr. Harry L. Reeder III  
November 6, 2016 – Evening sermon

We will start by looking at some preliminary texts as we look at the issues before us in this coming election. These words in I Peter are given to us by the inspiration of the Spirit given to His people throughout the Roman Empire, a pagan nation yet this instructed God’s people on how they were to live and I want to read them to you. I Peter 2:11–17 says *[11] Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

*[13] Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, [14] or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. [15] For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. [16] Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. [17] Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.*

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

The 2016 presidential election is Tuesday and it is unique to say the least. This study is not unique because I do this at every election year where I take the time the Sunday before to identify the issues but I must confess I feel a greater urgency to do that in this election than I have in any others that I’ve done it for. I’d like to start by setting a framework from this I Peter text. First of all how do Christians see themselves in this world? We are exiles. We are sojourners. That is the way a Christian should look at themselves in this world.

We are citizens in this nation and it’s fine to have a love for this nation and what God would do with this nation. The Reformers loved their nation. Calvin sent 1300 missionaries to France. Knox said ‘give me Scotland or I die.’ Latimer and Ridley said as they were burning to death ‘we shall light a candle for Christ that shall not be put out in all of England.’ Christian patriotism is a Biblical concept that can be used, should be used, but it should never become this notion that Jesus is the tribal god for any one nation. He is Lord of all the nations and our desire is that our nation would submit and surrender to Him, but not that He would be put on the shelf as the go to guru for our nation. He is to be confessed as Lord of all. So all Christians are living in this world on a green card. As we used sing, this world is not my home I’m just passing through for my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. I’m not living as if this is everything but I am living to bring Him who is everything to this life and to this country.

Secondly, we as Christians are to keep our behavior pure. That means you have to crucify the old man who wages war against your life in Christ. There is an enemy against you outside, Satan and there is an enemy inside of you which is the old man. So in order to live as sojourners for Christ in this world you have to kill the old man who wages war against you. That then enables you to keep your conduct among the Gentiles and that is those who don’t know the Lord who you dwell in the midst of. You want to live a life that honors Christ with your conduct. Your life is to be honorable and that doesn’t mean you live a life to be saved. You can only be saved by the grace of God in Christ and His finished work on the cross but you do want

to live a life that honors that Christ who has saved you before a watching world and you are watched by the world.

You are also to live in such a way that when God visits a nation and even at the day of judgment they will have to glorify God for the way that you live now. The day of visitation can mean the judgment and it also can mean when God visits a place with saving power. That would be a great awakening or a Gospel awakening that happens in a place or land. Then the people who once ridiculed Christ and His people will glorify God in that day because you bore witness leading to that day. That is another implication of that text as well.

So what does this honorable life look like where you are subject to human institutions that God has ordained? You submit yourself as a statement of worship to the Lord. Ultimately a wife's submission to her husband is a statement about her confidence in the Lord and not in her husband. She does that unto the Lord. Our submission to those in authority over us to bring the due honor and respect is a statement of our confidence in the sovereign hand of God. While Peter was writing this he was subject to the emperor of that day and you couldn't get much worse than that one for it was Nero. We are to recognize that these ordered systems are there for a purpose and our behavior should not be one that brings ill repute upon the sovereign plan of God but shows our confidence in God by our submission.

What is it that those governors are to do? They are supposed to rule in a way that what is good is praised and what is evil is punished. Some of these that Peter is talking to had Roman citizenship but some were in some form of slavery or indentured servitude to some yet they were not to see themselves as in the chains of man slavery. They were to see themselves as free in Christ, never using their Christian liberty as a cover up for evil. It is not when you're saved you can live any way you want to for when you are saved you have a new want in your life. You want to live a different life for Christ. You won't always live it perfectly for the good that I would do I don't do but something has changed in you for what you want to do for Christ. You are a steward of God, a servant of God and you are to live that way.

Then Peter ends with 'honor everyone and love the brotherhood.' We are to honor everyone made in the image of God. We are not going to show partiality to people and if you love the Lord your God whom you have not seen then you ought to show the honor and respect to those bear His image all around you. There is something special among God's people as we love one another in the brotherhood in the depth of agape love, sacrificially, open and transparent in Christ. It was said time and time again in the early church as the world watched them that these people die well and how they love one another.

Finally Peter tells us to fear God and honor the emperor. We are not to fear man or at all for on the contrary we are to fear God who alone is worthy to be feared with reverence and awe for majestic is His name. And we are to honor the emperor and these principles are to guide us as well. I want you to remember the phrase 'honor the emperor' because I feel that is one of the issues of the day that is to be understood in our society as Christians as we walk into this election.

We are to approach this election asking God to give us wisdom in terms of voting. Given the candidates that are before us I cannot bring myself as a Christian to support or endorse either candidate on a personal basis but I will work my way through who to vote for. I think as Christians in this election because of some of the dynamics particularly the separation at times from a party platform to the candidates who bear that platform, the things that have been affirmed, and the conduct that has been done, is that we are at a point where I cannot make a statement for someone's person, I will take the next steps as to how I arrive at a vote. I believe

some believers will get to a point and not vote but you have to realize if you don't vote that's a vote. If you don't want to vote it is a matter of moral conviction and we'll give room to understand that with the love of Christ and one another.

Secondly, I don't think it's immoral not to vote but I will vote for I think it is bad stewardship for me not to vote. In God's providence I am in a country that has set a tone that has spread throughout the world and it was something that was unheard of until the 18<sup>th</sup> century and that is people get to vote for who rules them. Up until then it was whoever was born to whoever was ruling who would rule you. To quote Abraham Lincoln who summed up the founding fathers principles, 'we are in a nation ruled by covenant and that is consent of the governed for it is a nation of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.' Therefore I think it is bad stewardship not to cast my best possible vote so I will vote.

There are five things I'll mention to you to consider as you decide about voting. Number one is the predominant factor in deciding who to vote for is the issue of character. When God puts leaders in His church He gives seventeen qualifications for an elder and fifteen have to do with character and conduct. Only two deal with competency. Throughout the Bible one is constantly pointed to the character of the ruler because that is crucial. What if the issue of character does not win the day for you? Then that means you go to step two.

Two has to do with content. What are the candidates policies in two categories – their personal policies and their party's platform policies? Now you are back to character because someone can have a great platform but their character puts them in a place where they don't carry it out so if doesn't mean that you have dismissed the first one but you have moved to the content of their policies.

Number three is you then move to competencies. Can they do the job? Again, all three of these are interdependent of each other. In the church, I know pastors whose grasp of theology overwhelms me to almost the point of intimidating me because they are so brilliant. Their leadership and preaching skills are phenomenal but everywhere they go they split churches because the issue is character. So we can't ever get away from that issue but you do have to address the other issues.

Number four has to do with colleagues. Who surrounds them? Who has access to them? You can know someone by two things—who their enemies are and by who their friends are. That gives you some inclination of who they are by who they surround themselves with or don't surround themselves with. There may come a time that you vote for someone not necessarily because of them but because of who they surround themselves with.

Number five deals with conviction. If you want to know someone's conviction the best way is to look at their history. People can change and do change and by God's grace I'm glad you're not judging me in the ministry by my conduct from age 14 to age 2. God did a work of grace in my life at age 21 and it was a transforming work of grace but you have every right and expectation before I'm ever in the ministry to take a look at my conduct as a professing believer because basically the best predictor of the future is someone's past, unless there is an intervening work of God's grace. God can sovereignly apply this at any point in time if He so desires.

So you take those five things and now you put them against the issues of the day. Who has the character, the content, the competencies, the colleagues and the conviction to deal with the issues of the day? How did I arrive at the issues of the day? There were three things that help me arrive at these five issues that I'm going to give you.

Number one is stewardship of what God has done in this nation. I do not believe that America is exceptional. I believe that God has exceptionally blessed America. I've looked at

my genealogy and the Lord didn't get a bargain with my people when they came over here. I'm just glad they didn't get hung to tell you the truth. I think there are two reasons why we have been blessed by God's providence. One is because of a church with all of its imperfections that was salt and light that influenced the formation and maturation of this nation. Secondly, the nation by declaration welcomed the free enterprise of the church, the free exercise of religion.

What did God say? He says 'when a nation blesses My people, I will bless that nation through My people' and I think that is what we have seen because the church has been welcomed to freely function throughout its 200 plus history and because the church to some degree was a means of blessing of God's providence to this nation. That being the case there are many things that have been deposited in this nation in the providence of God that I believe I have to be a steward over for the sake of my children, grandchildren and the generations to come. I want to be a good steward over those things that are true, right, and beautiful that have been deposited here and I think there are crucial essential ones that are at stake that I will enumerate for you.

The second thing that affected me in the issues is the lay of the land today. What is exactly happening today? Where is the point of attack today? A person asked me recently why I keep talking on the matter of Biblical sexuality, thinking I was fixated on it but that's not it for I'm just responding to what is happening today. If you'll be quiet about it then I'll be quiet about it. If you'll live with rational understanding of male and female where God has given the gift of sex to initiate, procreate, recreate within a marriage then I won't say anything else. There is nobody more embarrassed to talk about these things than I am. I am of the legacy of Martin Luther where he says 'wherever the world brings the challenge to the truth of God, if I don't meet it with humility and boldness then everything else I do is nothing but cowardess.' It has to be met and so it will be met. I believe there are certain things that are clearly at the point of attack in the unraveling of a culture now in a death spiral and free fall. One of the evidences is not that we are at an election that puts us on the brink of God's judgment but we are in an election that is telling you are already under God's judgment. We are presently under God's judgment.

The third thing is Biblical moral principles. I don't care what nation I'm in these Biblical moral principles I have to stand for if I love people. There are two things that guide me as a Christian and a pastor and God-willing will guide this congregation. One is that we are committed to the Great Commission where we want to take the Gospel and evangelize and disciple people. My objective is not to change the culture of this nation but to win sinners for when sinners are won and disciplined lives change and culture changes. The changing of a culture is a consequence of the changing of lives where God's grace that is greater than our sin does its work.

The Great Commission says in Matthew 28:19-20, [19] *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* This includes our nation. So the Great Commission causes me to deal with these issues out of my love to the Lord and my love for the lost.

Secondly, the Great Commandment makes me deal with these issues as well. I not only want the work of redeeming work to rescue and transform sinners but I want the work of common grace to restrain sin in society and promote that which is good. Whether someone gets converted or not which I pray they do but even if they don't I want the truth of God's Word spoken in love to restrain sin in society and to promote that which is virtuous. Why? It is because I love my neighbor. So if you're going to destroy marriage and generations then I'm not

going to be quiet because I love my neighbor too much to promote some fantasy of marriage and the family that is a fabrication and destructive to children who will grow up in fatherless or motherless homes. So we will speak to those issues in love but we will speak the truth.

In some of the issues I will give to you there will be four or five issues embedded in it but I did find a way to say it was one issue and even then I will not be able to highlight everything. I am just going to surface what I think is pressing to you as you think about how you will vote in this upcoming election and as you get up the day after the vote is over to deal with the results of this election. So here are the things I want to highlight.

One, I believe what has been at stake in our nation is what has been a singular blessing in this nation and that is the rule of law. Law is supposed to be the emperor of the United States of America but we have movements in which presidents, legislators, and supreme court justices want to be emperors. Our forbearers took a book that was written by a man who used to walk the streets of Edenborough and his name was Samuel Rutherford. He wrote this book titled Lex, Rex which means in Latin, the law is king. Men like John Witherspoon, James Madison, Benjamin Rush, George Mason, understood that and said we had a great experiment where we would not have a king (a monarchy) or mob rule, a democracy or an oligarchy but we're going to have a republic in which you govern by consent of the people and the consent is to a constitution which is the king.

So whether a president, a senator, a supreme court justice, a legislator, army, marine, navy, policeman, fireman, for whenever a civil servant takes the oath of allegiance it is always to the constitution. I believe that is at stake here in this upcoming election. We have an executive branch that is violating the rule of the law by making the oval office the place that produces its own laws. Secondly, we have supreme courts that no longer interpret law and apply the administration of law but we now have supreme court justices that absolute temerity to say now that they have made this judgment it is the law of the land. No, sorry it is not. It is an opinion on the law of the land. There is only one place where the law of the land is made and that is called Congress and that is by the people you vote to put there. We have constant approaches now that take the three offices that were supposed to have their full and free authority to hold the other office accountable that we are now finding that one office has in some cases abandoned its responsibility so that no longer is the constitution ruling. So that executive orders and court rulings are ruling the land.

I am praying that somehow we will get people into office that understand the importance of the constitution and then it is amazing how many of these things would be settled. For instance, no longer would war be a foreign policy if war had to be voted on where it is supposed to be voted on is in the Congress and not in the discussions between the president and the secretary of state. Only Congress according to the law can declare war. That is appropriate because citizens are the ones who put people into Congress and they have to come back and look you in the face every two years. That is simply a matter of law that we have abandoned. I could go to case after case here so we have a crucial issue. Will we elect people down ticket and up ticket that believe in the supremacy of the law? The job of the state is to apply the law with equity and no partiality. By implication if we elect people who properly uphold the constitution now we can have some confidence in who they put as a supreme court justices because they don't look for justices who make law but who will interpret the law as it was originally intended in the context of the case that is before them. Right now the constitution is seen as something to manipulate and maneuver instead of submitting to the law of the land. If it was submitted to then

the branches of government would have proper appointments and function as they are supposed to function.

The second issue is the sanctities of culture. There are certain sacred, ethical sanctities that are foundational to culture that God built into the creation. You don't find them by going through the 632 ceremonial laws of Moses. You find them right in the creation order. They are creation sanctities, creation laws and all of them that I am about to give you are under assault and they are losing the battle in our culture. Here are the sanctities.

Number one is the sanctity of life. Since Roe v Wade we are approaching 60 million lives that have been taken through abortion where innocent blood is crying out for justice. Why would we not be under God's judgment? The sanctity of life has moved beyond the abortuary, now to the nursery. In this upcoming election we have one candidate stating that not only the newly born can be killed and have no rights but that you are going to have to pay for it. In this election in four states and the district of Columbia there are referendums on physician assisted suicide. Pretty soon we will have a duty to die and physicians will have a duty to place their approval upon it.

Second is the sanctity of marriage. I certainly want to help those dealing with sexual sins and addictions but the answer is not to redefine marriage which becomes a fabrication of marriage. Marriage is a monogamous relationship between one man and one woman for one life, a conjugal and covenantal relationship. By definition it requires a heterosexual relationship in marriage for it to be a marriage. God has built it this way and has put it in the creation law when He said in Genesis 2:24, [24] *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* Marriage is a covenantal, heterosexual, monogamous relationship for life.

Thirdly, tied to the sanctity of marriage is the sanctity of sexuality. The new liberty and the secular fascist movement of our nation is unfettered sexual eroticism. I was recently reading something from a "famous" Christian author who said if we love people then we will embrace same sex marriage. First of all same sex marriage is a fabrication for it is no marriage by definition. Number two I am not loving people if I have to say to love you then I will love your behavior. Three, this author said if two people consent to be faithful to each other for the rest of their life then how can you say 'no' to them and my question to that is why are you limiting it to two then. So if you are going to let two redefine marriage then why wouldn't you let three and why is consent necessary and why for life and why not just for the night? Why would you walk into that mayhem in denying the creation law of God? This glorious gift of God is to initiate, recreate and procreate a marriage and anything else is rebellion against God no matter how much the culture says the narrative of liberty is unfettered sexual eroticism.

That is the death of a culture which we see in Romans 1 and when a culture gives approval to it without shame we are about to find out who is not ashamed of the Gospel. That is why Paul says he is not ashamed of the Gospel because then he describes a pagan culture that shamelessly rejects the majesty and glory of God. When a culture shamelessly rejects God and expresses it with sexual eroticism then we will find out who is unashamed of the Gospel. That gives the bad news of what sin is and the good news of redemption, forgiveness and transformation in Jesus Christ.

Four is the sanctity of gender. God has made us in His image male and female.

Fifthly is the sanctity of liberty and law. Anarchy is not liberty. Liberty is the freedom to do what is right and not the freedom to do anything I want.

Sixthly is the sanctity of family itself. Yes, there are men and women, because of the sinfulness of this world that are single parents so as a congregation and as a people we will rush to them to do the best we can to fill in all the gaps but it is not mercy to redefine family. Mercy is to minister to those in broken families because of the brokenness of this world. We need to keep before men and women God's design of the family – one man, one woman, one life and then stewards of the children entrusted to that man and woman, embedded and surrounded in the family of families, the church of Jesus Christ, which is ready to step in and minister whenever brokenness has occurred in those relationships. Those are the sanctities that I believe are before us today.

The third issue that is before us is the bill of rights. That was something that was placed there under the influence of Christians in general and specifically put in place. There was a Gospel awakening from 1735 to 1765 and political tyranny was exposed from that Gospel awakening of spiritual liberty therefore a nation said they would not consent to tyranny. So there was a declaration of independence and as God brought blessing to that declaration and they won the day, then they did something that France didn't do and that was instead of anarchy in our declaration of independence they brought order. They ordered their freedom with law, the constitution of the United States of America. We knew we were not a perfect people by any means and there is much that needed to be changed and the most obvious was the irrationality of chattel slavery, man stealing, in a nation that lives by liberty.

What did they do? They put in the bill of rights and the most crucial was the first amendment with its six affirmations. The most crucial of those six affirmations was freedom of press, freedom of speech and the free exercise of religion. The least amount of discussion has been over the first amendment and the first of our first freedoms which was the free practice of religion. The reason we had so little discussion over this is that the secularists will tell you it wasn't meaningful to them and they knew that one was a given. The reason most people were in this country was because of their ability to freely exercise their religion. They knew it was the free exercise of religion that would mature and maintain our freedoms and correct our improprieties and sins. Therefore I believe one of the most crucial things today is this matter of the bill of rights. I have heard one candidate say time and time again 'I am not going to attack the freedom of worship.'

The Soviet Union had the freedom to worship. We don't have freedom to worship for that is a subset. We have the free practice of religion in the public square and not the freedom to worship for one hour, in one place on one day. I do think all the other amendments are up for grabs as well but I believe this first one has gone because we don't have a free press. The press has sold itself out to its ideologies so it no longer does its job. Two we no longer have free speech. We now have a pastor who has the head of the department of health in Georgia who had to have his sermons examined and if he preached anything close to the Biblical meaning of sexuality they weren't going to allow him to be the head of the department of health. The Atlanta fire chief of Georgia lost his job because of the discipleship book he wrote in his church to tell men what it meant to have sexually pure lives. All of this dealing with Biblical truth has to stay private and is not allowed in the public square and those who do this publically will be charged with 'hate speech' and thrown in jail. Therefore free speech is under attack. So those first three freedoms in the first amendment are absolutely crucial in this election.

The fourth issue is we have to say 'no' to cultural Marxism and 'yes' to the rebirth of a unifying vision in this country. We are not a melting pot. We are hyphenated – European-American, African-American, Asian-American etc. In the first generation people were

hyphenated but they wanted to get rid of the hyphenation because they wanted to be American. There was something about being an American with certain ideals and certain virtues that were informed by Biblical Christianity. We have lost that and now we no longer have a melting pot but a smorgasbord of hyphenated Americans. We need that positive vision and ideal that affirms diversity and understands the role of plurality but there is something that unifies us. If you don't have any heat you can't have a melting pot and the heat is the vision of virtue and ideals.

Do we have a leader somewhere who could articulate those virtues and ideals or someone close to that leader? That is desperately needed. Instead we have leaders who are cultural Marxists and here is what they know; all you do is get people divided thinking there is no hope and then come in and say there is hope for we have a bigger government. Cultural Marxism creates division in order to have chaos and turmoil so you can expand the state into being a messianic state to save you. Right now we are victimized time and time again by cultural Marxists and then they use that to tell us the answer is the state instead of a state that has embodied limited government and glorious transcendent values and a vision for what a country should be.

Fifthly and finally, it is absolute moral insanity, a grievous sin for a nation to carry the debt that we are carrying. What if I were to say to you that the elders took away my salary but I bought a bigger house. How did you buy a bigger house with no salary? It's easy because I just went and borrowed the money. What was your collateral? I didn't have any or I signed my children's names and grandchildren's names. They are going to pay it for me so that I won't have to be inconvenienced. That is what we are doing. I know there are many who are a lot smarter than me but I am right on target with this one. All you have to do is take the zeroes out of the 22 million dollars we are in debt and get it down to something like 220,000 like the cost of a house and then take the zeroes out and see what you're doing to your family. That is what we are doing. For our own convenience we're enslaving our children and grandchildren to pay a debt they cannot pay. I don't know where the tipping point is for we may have already passed it but we need someone who will do something about it and we need all three branches of government to do what they are responsible to do.

I'd like to close by looking at II Chronicles 19 where Jehoshaphat had brought reforms, revitalization and renewal to the nation of Israel. He knew that everything rises and falls upon leadership and this is what he decided to do. II Chronicles 19:4-7 says [4] *Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem.* (You want a leader that lives among the people) *And he went out again among the people, from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers.* (You don't want a leader that is unapproachable or aloof) [5] *He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, [6] and said to the judges, "Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the LORD. He is with you in giving judgment. [7] Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the LORD our God, or partiality or taking bribes."*

Go and vote, not out of fear but out of prayer with your confidence in the Lord. Do your best to work through the fivefold paradigm as you look at who you will vote for and the issues you are considering are crucial. Whatever you do don't come to me and tell me how afraid you are. Have no fear. I have concerns but no fear for perfect love casts out all fear. Our confidence is in the God of glory and mercy. Our confidence is in a God who can take a pagan king like Cyrus and turn his heart to send God's people back to Israel, have them rebuild the temple and give them money three different times to do it. In other words, Cyrus did three

stimulus packages to fund believers or the God who can convert a Nebuchadnezzar through the witness of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. I'm going to go through the process to make the wisest vote I can make but once it is done and the election has taken place with God's sovereign hand there, if they are a Cyrus, then God 'move them.' If they are a Nebuchadnezzar then God 'convert them.'

The day after the election I want to do the next right thing and that is the same thing I did the day before the election. I am going to pray for those in authority over me. I'm going to respect their office. I'm going to speak out in a free land with the free exercise of religion. I am going to exercise my right of free speech but I'm going to do it as a Christian with truth and love. If we are under judgment I'm going to ask God to protect His people, refine us and to bring a Gospel awakening. My answer is not in this election either way. My answer is in the Lord of Hosts. I want to make my vote right. I want to do what I ought to do and I want to do it in a way that will honor the Lord. The day after the election and until Jesus comes again, by God's grace I, Briarwood and other evangelical churches, are going to do what is really needed in our nation and that is revival. It is not a stop gap election but revival in which there is a ground up movement of the Gospel. I don't believe that revival is coming until there is reformation in the pulpits. Right now the church of Jesus Christ is too concerned of being affirmed by the culture with church growth and celebrity pastors. We need faithful churches and faithful pastors and then a revival for then will men and women be changed and the landscape of a nation will change.

Benjamin Franklin said at the birth of this country, "It looked like the whole world was going to church" but what Mr. Franklin didn't know is that the whole church had gone into the world to win them to Christ. That is what I will do the day after the election until Jesus comes again. I will be praying for you that God would guide you not only in the vote on Tuesday but a life in Wednesday and beyond. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we could spend in Your Word looking to You for guidance in this upcoming election. Help us to stand strong for You and to be a light in this country for Your glory. Help us to be faithful to pray for those in authority over us with respect and honor for their offices. May You be praised and glorified in and through our lives in this world, in Jesus' Name, Amen.