In the Barn! Barneys Newsletter



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rock, and another who built his house on a foundation of sand. When a great storm came, the man who's house had a solid foundation of rock stood fast, while the house built on sand tumbled down. I even remember learning a song with actions to go with this story, that I'm sure I sang regularly (and probably my parents regretted teaching me)! As a child I remember being taught that the point of this story was that God was the solid foundation - that if my life was built on him, I wouldn't fall.

However, David's sermon on Sunday made me realise there is a lot more to this story than I was taught as a child. We need to understand this story with the knowledge that Jesus "is the one appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead" (Acts 10:42). The ultimate storm that we need to be prepared for is the coming judgement that we will all face. This puts all

by Elise Brake Christian family, or attended Sunday School as a child? One of the classic stories I remember being taught as a child, and one which stuck with me vividly, was the story of the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7. It's a simple tale of two men: one who built his house on a foundation of

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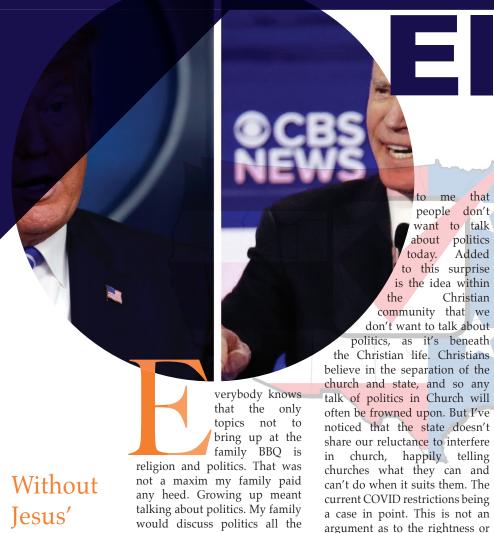
ere you someone

who grew up in a

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time and we would talk about gospel, how the government policies of the day would affect our no hope family. They were not the most in-depth conversations, but I exists for knew growing up that elections had consequences. And like any anyone. person who grows up hearing a topic, I though it normal to talk the things I heard, in the way I heard it.

So it comes as some surprise

Elections Matter by Adam **Richards**

> greater good or more importantly their agenda.

to me that

people don't

want to talk

about politics

today. Added

to this surprise

Christian

is the idea within

community that we

don't want to talk about

politics, as it's beneath

wrongness of those restrictions,

just an acknowledgement

that the state has taken the

right to tell churches how to

conduct themselves. Churches

in Australia and around the

world for their own reasons

have largely complied. Having

now complied in this case, we

would be fools if we think that

governments won't tell churches

how to act in the future for the

the

As you may or may not be aware, America elects a new president in November. Australians living so far away from America often fail to realise just how much America shapes our culture. Realising this truth, I began watching American politics for trends that will soon come our way. There are some troubling policies that have largely gone unnoticed in Australia that could have massive effects on Christians both in the United States and the rest of the world. There are Christians in America sounding the alarm on a proposed bill, called the Equality Bill, which most likely will be used compel the speech of Christian institutions to accept gender transition.

Christians need to be praying at this time for our brothers in the U.S. God is sovereign, but God's sovereignty often works through his people standing for the truth. Christians must be willing to fight for the right to preach the gospel. Compelled speech would restrict gospel proclamation as the Equality Bill would enshrine the right of people to object to language that offends their feelings. Christians preach truth even when it's not

popular. Sinful people will always find the gospel offensive. Any piece of legislation that enshrines man's feelings as its legal standard will curtail gospel proclamation, which by its very nature offends sinful man's feelings.

A group of us spoke to an Australian who had ministered in America for quite some time. After spending years ministering there he told us, 'No-one understands

America. You only begin to understand it when you realise vou never Preach Christ will.' Taking this piece of advice verv seriously, I realised I don't know what will happen there this election. The outcome of the next election is uncertain. Yet no matter who wins, we must be praying that God will keep the door open for us to preach the truth of the gospel both in the

anyone.

U.S and in Australia. For without

Jesus' gospel, no hope exists for

other storms we face in life, no matter how great and painful they are, into stark perspective. To face this storm of judgement, we must have our lives built on the right foundation. This is what is at the heart of the story of the wise and foolish builders. What differs between the two men is whether they acted on Jesus words. We can't ignore Jesus' introductory words to the story, or we miss this point entirely: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt 7:24). If we hear Jesus words, we will not

go out and build our lives on any other foundation, for no other foundation will prepare us for the day of judgement.

As David preached on Sunday, the acts that come from Jesus words begin with the right relationship with God - being able to call him Father, having absolute dependence on him. This relationship is founded entirely in the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross - in dying in our place, taking our sin on himself. He faced the wrath of God that our sin deserved, and rose to life again to give us the sure hope of eternal life with him. Jesus, the judge to come, has already won us freedom, having paid for our sin with his life,

and taking on the judgement our sin deserves. If our life is built on this foundation, no matter what storms will rage on judgement day, we will be secure in him. We are also freed to live out the words of Jesus now, in light of this promised security on judgement day. We will face many storms in this life - we've been reminded of this earlier in our sermon on the mount series: that we are blessed when we are persecuted, when we suffer as Christians. We can rejoice in these storms, because of the secure hope we have in Jesus. Is your life built on this solid foundation? Are you ready for the judgement to come?

Find-A-Word - Election

Australia				Everyone				Minister				Reluctant			
Christian				Institution				Offensive			Sovereign				
Community				Introductory				Persecuted			Transition				
Consequences			Judgement			F	Proclamation			Understand					
Culture			Massive			F	Realise								
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PRAYER POINTS



Please send through points for yourself. I will also pick up points from around Barneys to place here if others feel comfortable sharing.

- Give thanks for our nation and our leaders. Pray that they will make wise decisions at this time.
- Pray for Nigeria where the persecution against Christian ministers continues unabated.