

By Stacie Ruth Stoelting

My sister and I have collectively visited with Obama, McCain, and Palin. But, at the end of life, one election truly matters: the election of Jesus as Savior of your soul. Have you elected Jesus as the President (Lord) of your soul? Believe me, I have yet to hear the dying utter "Obama" or "McCain" as a last word. I remember it vividly: I sat near the bed of a dying man. The smells of Purell, cancer, and a soon-to-be widow's perfume swirled together to sicken my nose. I determined to breathe through my mouth alone and give my nose a break.

As I looked at the wet faces of family members, as I grabbed for my Kleenex, and as my hand stroked the dying man's, what did I think of? Did names of famous people enter my mind? Did the room's occupants talk of Sarah, Biden, Obama, or McCain? No! Only one name brought power to a seemingly powerless situation: Jesus.

Today, politicians' names float through the airwaves and exit millions of mouths; yet such names hold little place in a hospital room. Whose Name tenderly crosses the lips of the dying? Jesus. Whose Name brings joy to the joyless? Jesus. Whose Name sends sense to the senseless? Jesus.

Jesus' Name alone deserves the highest reverence and deepest love. But, in an imperfect, mistake-ridden world, His Name is used in vain.

Shamefully, the Encarta Dictionary includes a definition that mentions how His Name is used as an "offensive term expressing frustration or dismay." Someday, there will be no misuse of His Holy Name. (The misuse of Jesus' Name never catches Him by surprise. He knows what's going on. In the end, He will set everything right. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in falsehood or without purpose." - Deut. 5:11, NIV)

Here's a truth about Jesus' Name that excites me: "If you are censured and suffer abuse [because you bear] the name of Christ, blessed [are you-- happy, fortunate, to be envied, with life-joy, and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of your outward condition], because the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God, is resting upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified." (1 Peter 4:14, AMP)

The etymology of the English name, Jesus, is quite interesting: "Jesus" is derived from the Greek version of the Hebrew Name for Jesus, which is Yehoshua. Yehoshua means "YHWH rescues." (YHWH is the most holy Jewish name for the one true God.)

As we face an election, let's use it as a time to focus on these points:

1. Have you "elected" Jesus as the President of your life? You have a choice: elect Jesus and live eternally in Heaven. Or default to the devil and suffer in hell forever. It's that simple. "Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." (1 John 5:5, AMP)

2. Once "elected," Jesus will always be with you. Nothing can change His love for you. (To learn more about God's love for you, take time to be sure you know Jesus and His love personally. [Click here.](#)) Despite what some say, only His Name will give you the life you need!

"But these are written (recorded) in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ (the Anointed One), the Son of God, and that through believing and cleaving to and trusting and relying upon Him you may have life through (in) His name [through Who He is]. (John 20:31, AMP; emphasis added.)

3. No matter who is elected, Jesus Christ still rules supremely. Of all the rulers, kings, and presidents who have ever lived, only One reigns over the universes. All former and current occupants of earth -including McCain and Obama- will one day bow only to Him: "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11, NIV

4. When you see political signs or commercials, remember that Jesus' Name belongs on the highest banner. One day, we will all join the Psalmist and "We will [shout in] triumph at your salvation and victory, in the name of our God we will set up our banners." (Psalm 20:5; AMP)

5. Government can't give us abundant life: Only Jesus supplies what we truly need. Rely on Him. Do you believe Him? Jesus asks this question and explains it well in John 11:25-26: "I am [Myself] the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on) Me, although he may die, yet he shall live; And whoever continues to live and believes in (has faith in, cleaves to, and relies on) Me shall never [actually] die at all. Do you believe this?"

Jesus' perfect "policies" alone are supreme. He, the Author of life, encourages us to protect and deem precious all life -including the unborn and the extremely afflicted. Only in His name does true, abundant life exist.

In the election of '08, let's ask Jesus to lead. Let's ask Him to give us wisdom and help our nation. Let's ask Jesus to be the eternal, all-powerful President of our souls.

No matter what happens, let's take comfort in the fact that Jesus can never be voted out. Once "voted into your heart," Jesus remains -and never goes back on His promises!
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