

Big Day in the USA

Today is one of the most important days in the history of our country. You may be wondering: Isn't that a strong statement to make, because there have been many historically significant days in the life of this nation?

And that would be an appropriate question to ask for, indeed, God Himself has intervened in the affairs of America on numerous occasions with course-altering actions. The Almighty does, however, expect us to use our minds and our hearts in beneficial ways as we seek to know and follow His will.

That brings us back to today.

This is Election Day 2004. Americans -- those who are registered voters, and that's another story -- will be deciding who will be President of these United States for the next four years. Will it be George W. Bush, the incumbent, and Dick Cheney as Vice President, or will it be Senator John Kerry, the challenger, and Senator John Edwards, his running mate?

The issues should be clear to serious citizens by now. After all, there have been three presidential debates and one among those contending for the vice presidency. News and talk shows and political ads on radio and television and in the newspapers have bombarded us for months. There should be no confusion about where the candidates stand on such issues as the war against terrorism, homeland security, taxes, the economy, education, and family values such as abortion and gay marriages.

Understanding the issues and doing something about them are two different matters. We can know to do the right thing, but never get around to acting. The result is that we fail ourselves and -- in the case of voting -- our country.

Whom do you trust to lead our country for the next four years -- to demonstrate the leadership and reinforce the values you hold dear?

A second question, closely related: In case the President is unable to serve four years, for whatever reason, whom do you trust to step into the role of leader of the free world? The answer deserves no small consideration, since the Vice President is but a heartbeat away from that responsibility.

So today, if you have not participated in early voting, as some states allow, please do not fail to exercise a most important privilege granted to us: the right to vote. It is the bedrock of a democracy.

Do not succumb to the notion, which will too often be repeated today, that "I am only one person, and my vote doesn't matter much."

It does matter. Your country needs you. Don't fail it. This is a big day in the USA.

--Beecher Hunter