

Colossians 1:11 Living Bible (TLB)

¹¹We are praying, too, that you will be filled with his mighty, glorious strength so that you can keep going no matter what happens—always full of the joy of the Lord,

What a crazy week that just ended. First of all, the election results that no one was expecting. The experts missed that call didn't they? If we look at the sports world, look at what happened to three of the top four college football teams on Saturday. I can't wait to see what that will do to the college playoff rankings. Did you ever guess that Ohio State would be pulling for Michigan to win? With their loss to Iowa, now if Ohio State beats Michigan, it will be Penn State going to the Big 10 Championship game and not Ohio State or Michigan. In pro football, it seemed they finally had some exciting games with some unusual finishes, such as Denver blocking an extra point and returning it to the end zone for two points and the victory.

Sports, religion, and politics are three topics that can usually bring some heated debate in to any conversation. Politics, especially in this heated presidential race has really brought out some ugliness in the past year. With Donald Trump becoming the President-Elect, it seems like ugliness has reached fever pitch. It honestly scares me how this hatred is becoming so prevalent.

But I did see one particular positive come out of this situation. I watched the video that has gone viral by Ernie Johnson, who is one of the commentators on Inside the NBA. He discussed his political decision to vote for a write-in candidate because he did not like either of the candidates backed by the two main parties. But the part that struck a chord and brought a warmth to my heart was when he added his religious view to it. He said that God had created him and that he knew, irregardless of who the president was, he knew that Jesus was his king. I thought it was brave for him to use such a public forum for his testimony. And it made me realize I need to stand up when necessary for my religious convictions.

With all of this ugliness rearing its head, I came upon this verse from Colossians 1:11, and it reminded me that I need to continue to pray for our government. I need to pray for our nation. I need to pray for those people who want to continue to spread the ugliness that this political season has brought upon us. Colossians tells me that with constant prayer, that God will give me strength to keep on going. And it reminds me that this president will come and go, just as all the previous ones have, but Jesus will remain forever.

One of posting that has been appearing lately on social media that merges politics and sports is the one that said "some people hate Trump and others hate Hillary but everyone hates _____" and this is where you fill in your own favorite college or pro team to dislike. But let me remind everyone of another famous commandment that Jesus gave us.

Matthew 22:37-40 Living Bible (TLB)

³⁷Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.'³⁸⁻³⁹ This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: 'Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.'⁴⁰ All

the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets stem from these two laws and are fulfilled if you obey them. Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others.”

Let us all remember that Jesus taught us to love everyone. Whether you like the political process or not, it does not give us the right to verbally abuse, make fun of, or even riot because we do not like the results of the election. What Jesus taught us in those two commandments should be what governs our behavior. If we truly follow the teachings of Jesus, it will not matter one iota who the president is for the next four years.