

# Jesus & Politics

Wisdomfest 2021

## 1. **Open** system (1-3)



1. **Open** system

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory.”

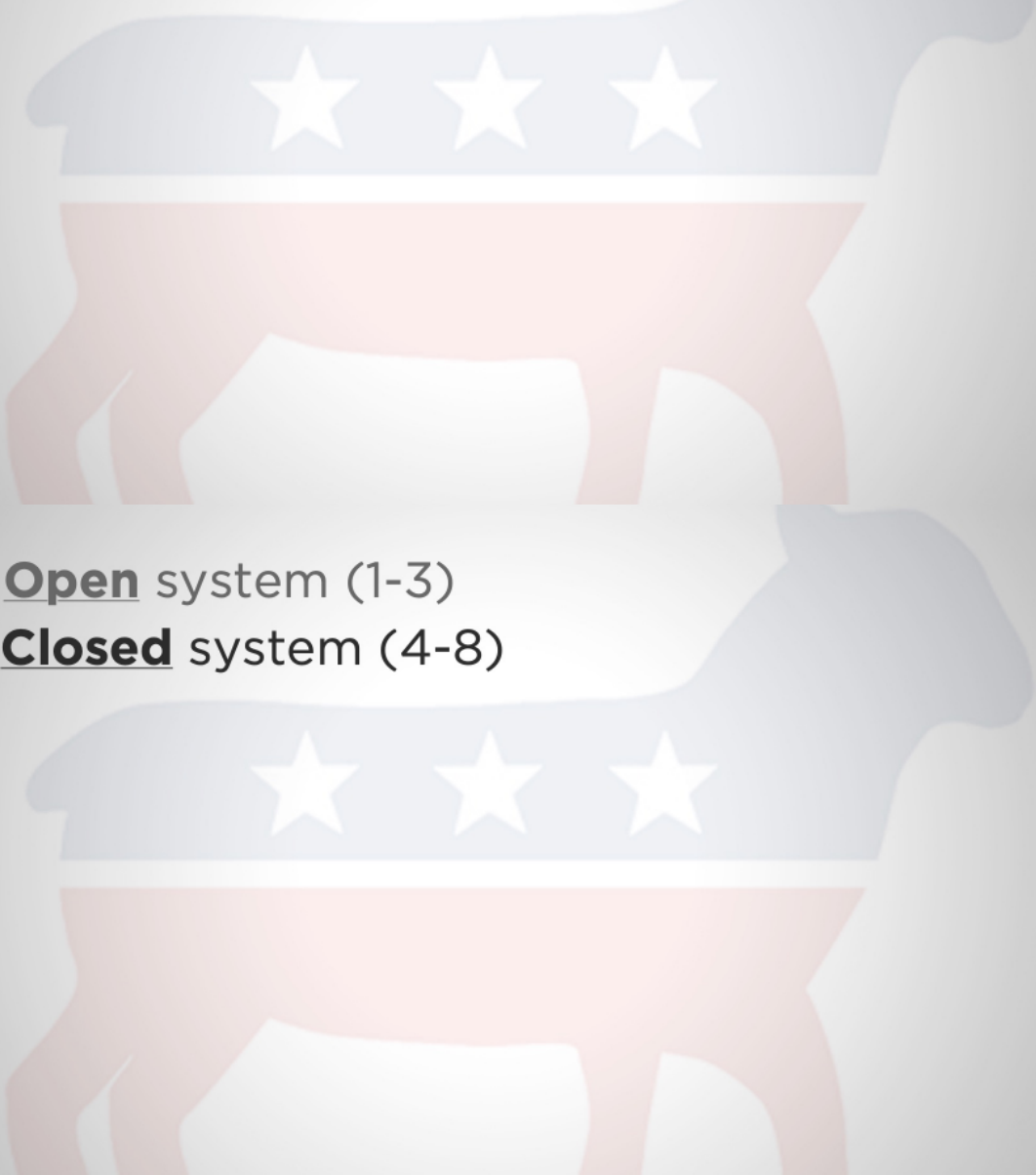
Psalm 115:1

“Why should the nations say, ‘Where is their God?’”

Psalm 115:2

“He does all that he pleases.”

Psalm 115:3

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1. **Open** system (1-3)
  2. **Closed** system (4-8)

“Those who make them become like them;  
so do all who trust in them.”

Psalm 115:8

“They went after false idols and became  
false, and they followed the nations that  
were around them.”

2 Kings 17:15





“The paper this evening brought an account of the commencement of hostilities in New England and many killed on both sides.

“These things I fear are the beginning of sorrows. Oh, that I could be suitably affected with what I see and hear.”

John Newton



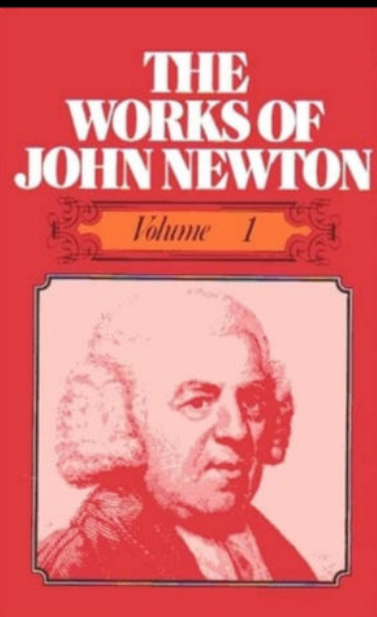
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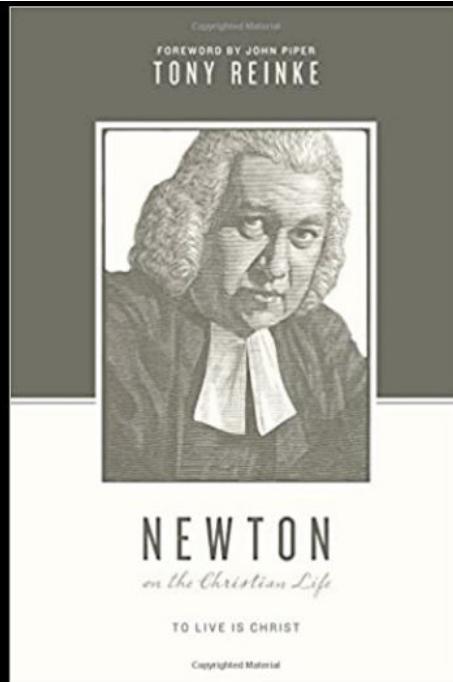
John Newton

How can we be unsuitably affected?

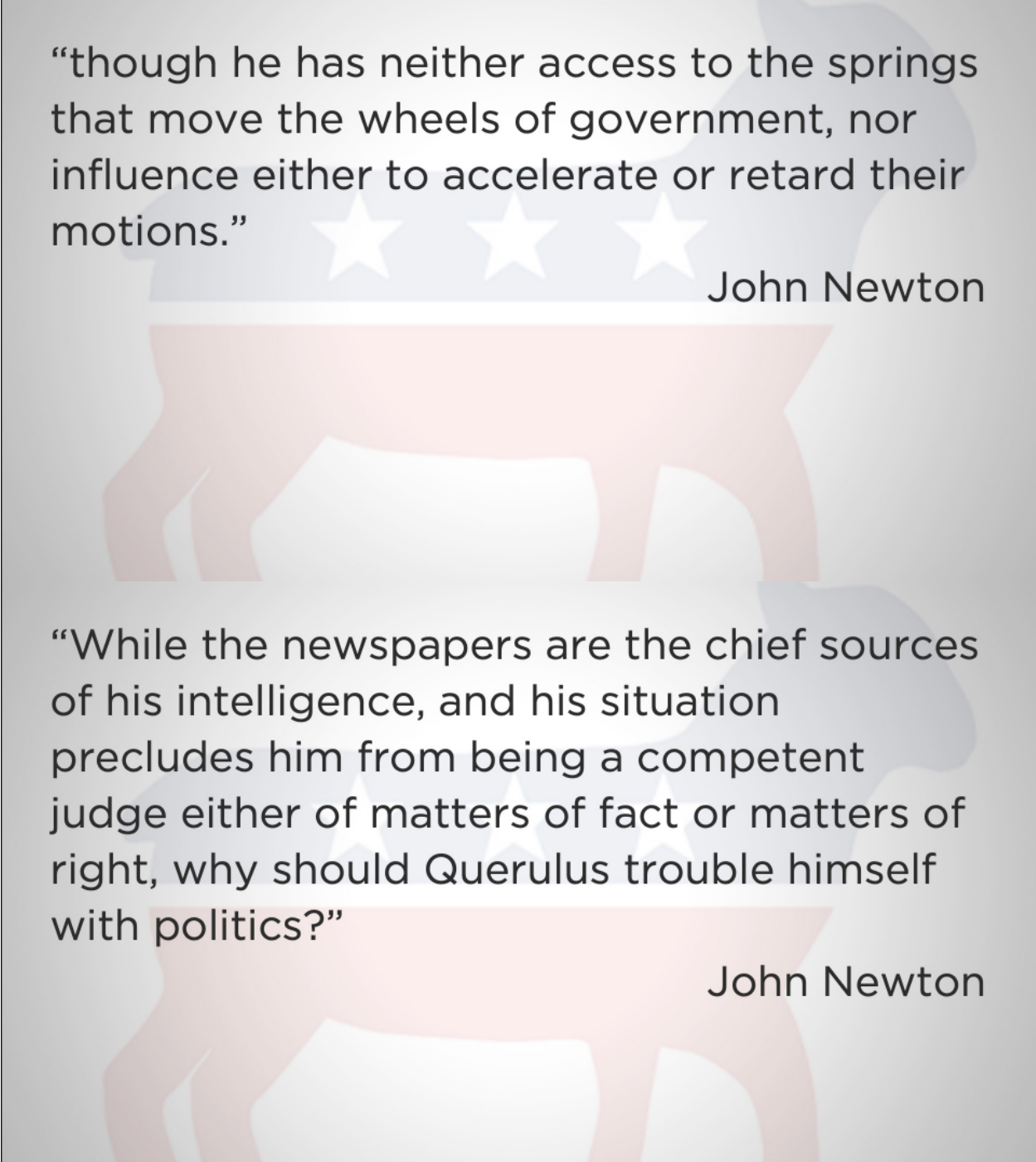
“The characters of some valuable persons are clouded . . . by comparatively small faults.”

John Newton





“Querulus wastes much of his precious time in declaiming against the management of public affairs;



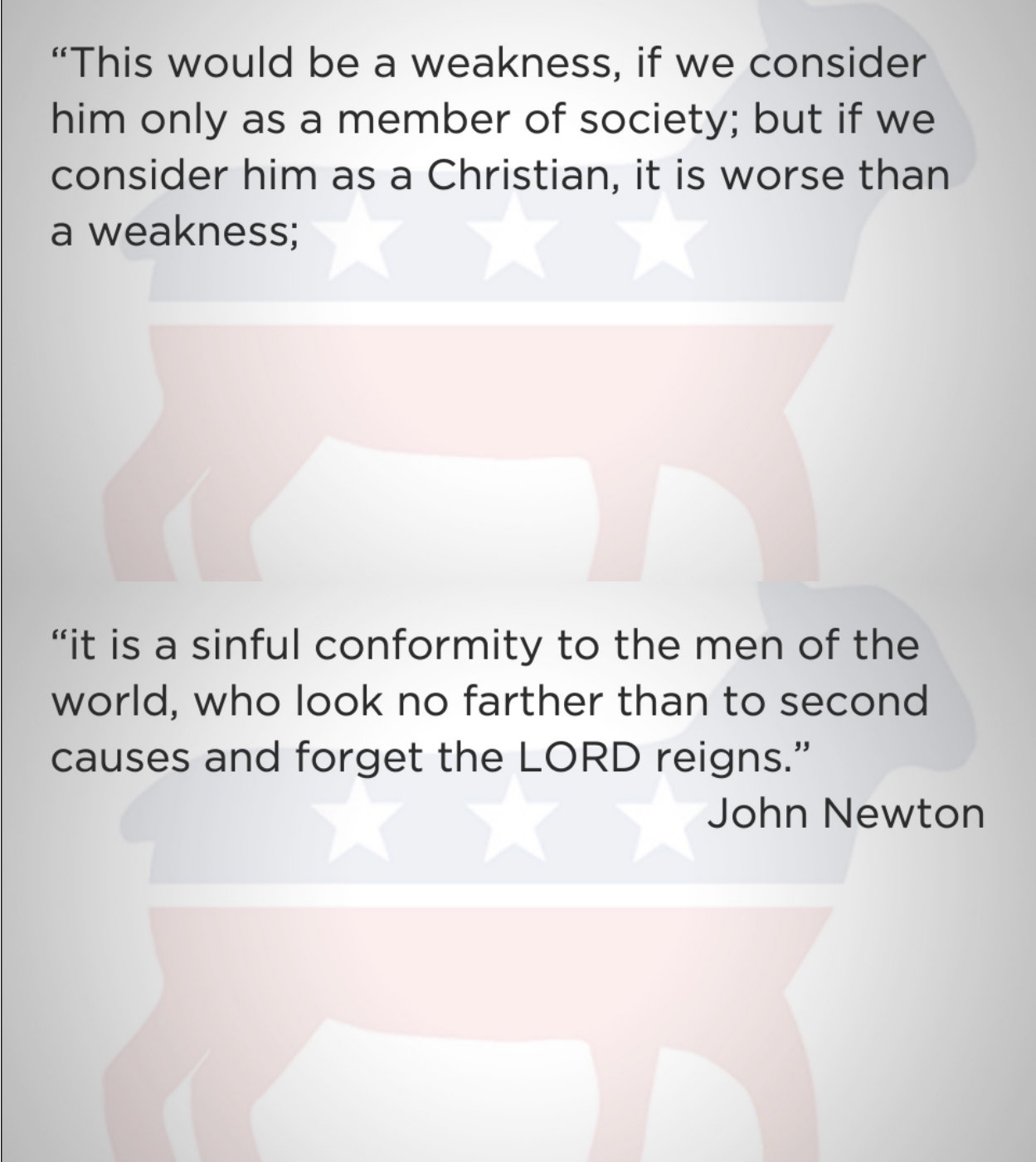
“though he has neither access to the springs that move the wheels of government, nor influence either to accelerate or retard their motions.”

John Newton

“While the newspapers are the chief sources of his intelligence, and his situation precludes him from being a competent judge either of matters of fact or matters of right, why should Querulus trouble himself with politics?”

John Newton






“This would be a weakness, if we consider him only as a member of society; but if we consider him as a Christian, it is worse than a weakness;

“it is a sinful conformity to the men of the world, who look no farther than to second causes and forget the LORD reigns.”

John Newton




“If a Christian be placed in a public sphere of action, he should undoubtedly be faithful to his calling, and endeavour by all lawful methods to transmit our privileges to posterity.”

John Newton

“As it is, his zeal is not only unprofitable to others, but hurtful to himself.”






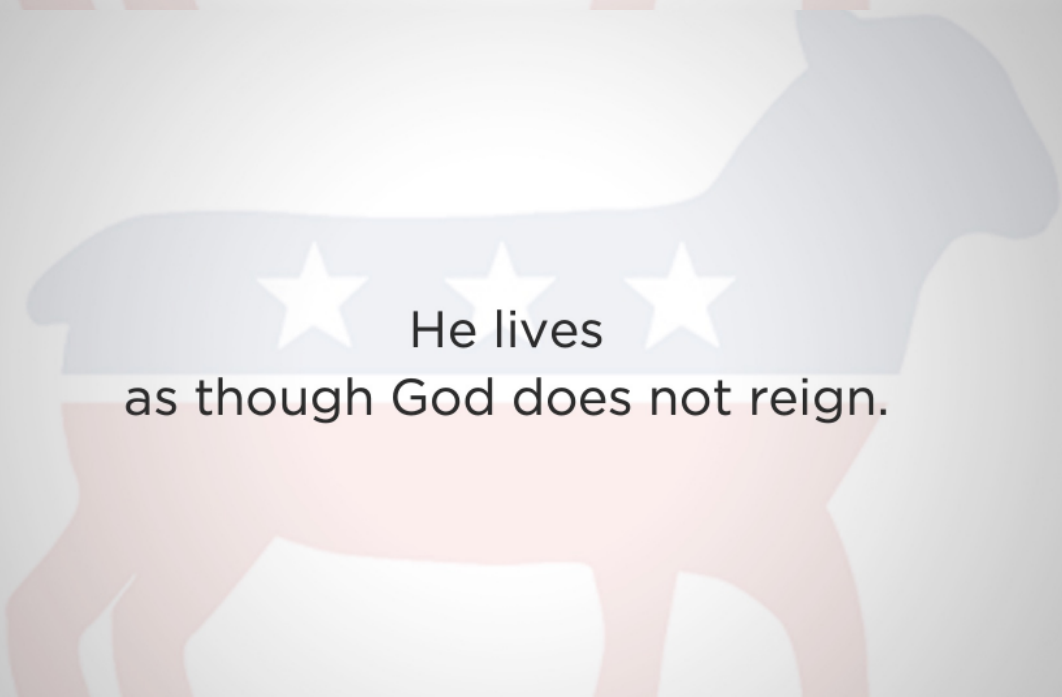
“It embitters his spirit, it diverts his thoughts from things of greater importance, and prevents him from feeling the value of those blessings, civil and religious, which he actually possesses.”

John Newton

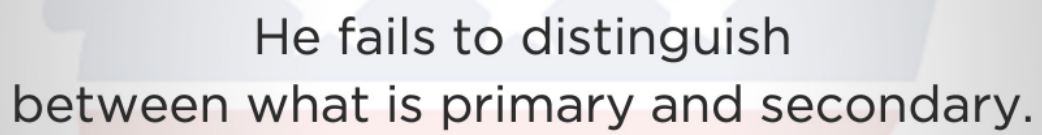
He wastes time complaining  
about things he cannot change.



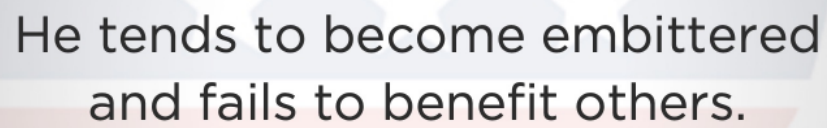
He speaks confidently  
about issues he cannot confirm.



He lives  
as though God does not reign.



He fails to distinguish  
between what is primary and secondary.



He tends to become embittered  
and fails to benefit others.

How can we be suitably affected?

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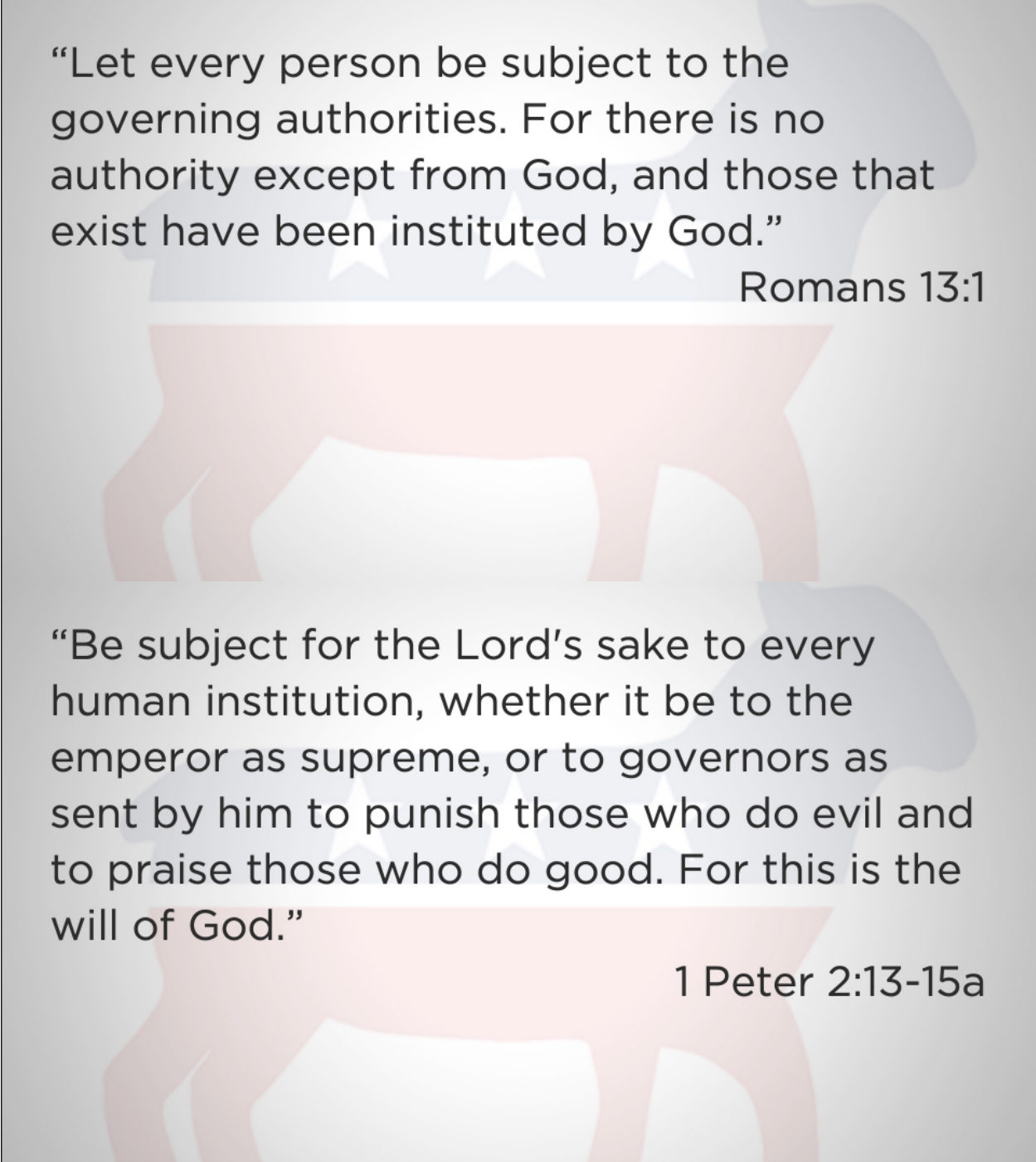
- He **prayed** consistently

“This, I think, is the true patriotism, the best, if not the only way, in which persons in private life may serve their country.”

John Newton

How can we be suitably affected?

- He **prayed** consistently
- He **responded** wisely



“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”

Romans 13:1

“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God.”

1 Peter 2:13-15a

“May we, at least, with one consent,  
Fall low before the throne  
With tears the nation’s sins lament,  
The churches and our own.”

John Newton







Passages – what does the Bible say?

**Principles** – what convictions flow from this?



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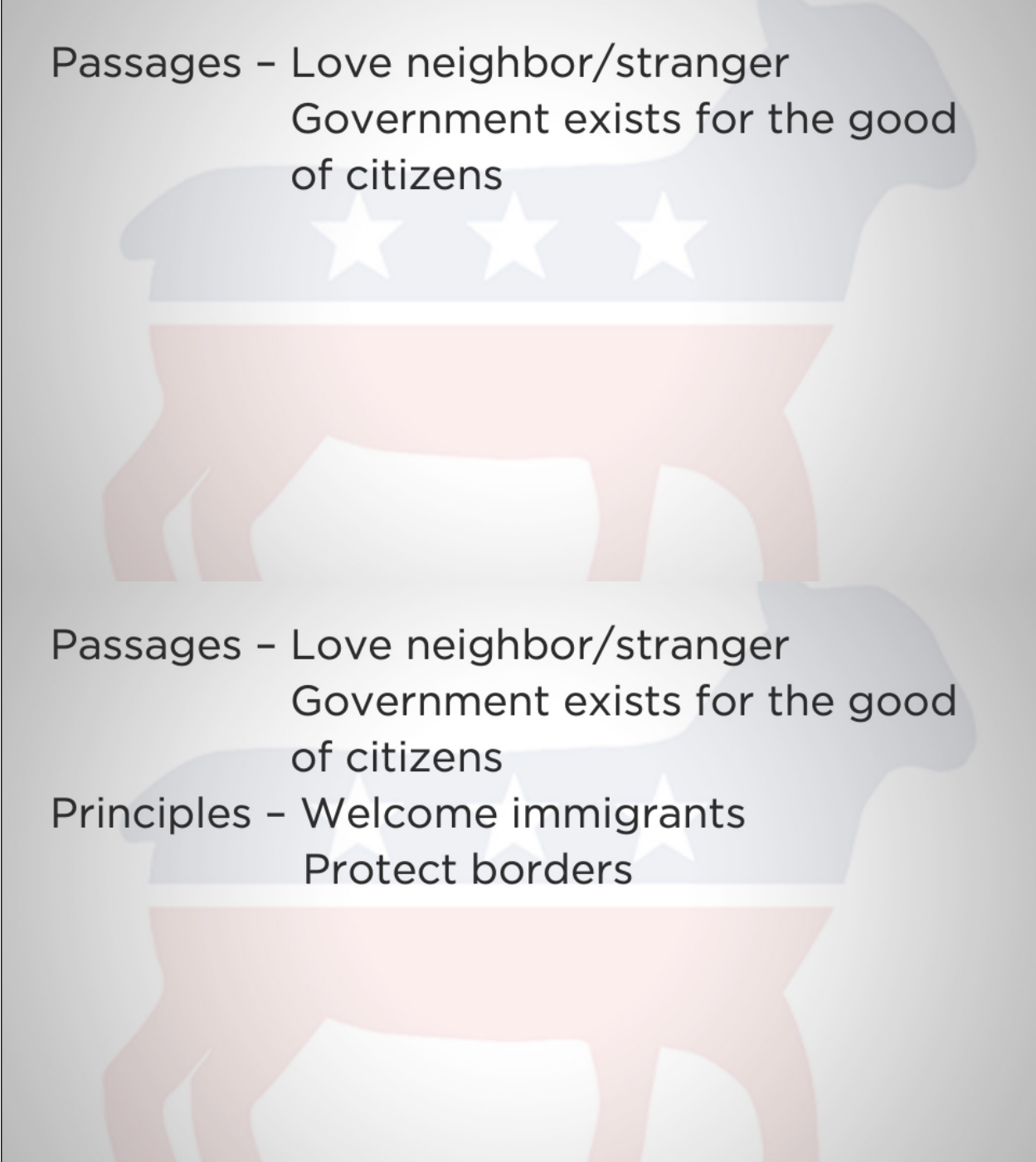
**Policies** – what laws/programs should be adopted?

Passages – what does the Bible say?

**Principles** – what convictions flow from this?

**Policies** – what laws/programs should be adopted?


**Priorities** – which issues take precedence?



Passages – Love neighbor/stranger  
Government exists for the good  
of citizens

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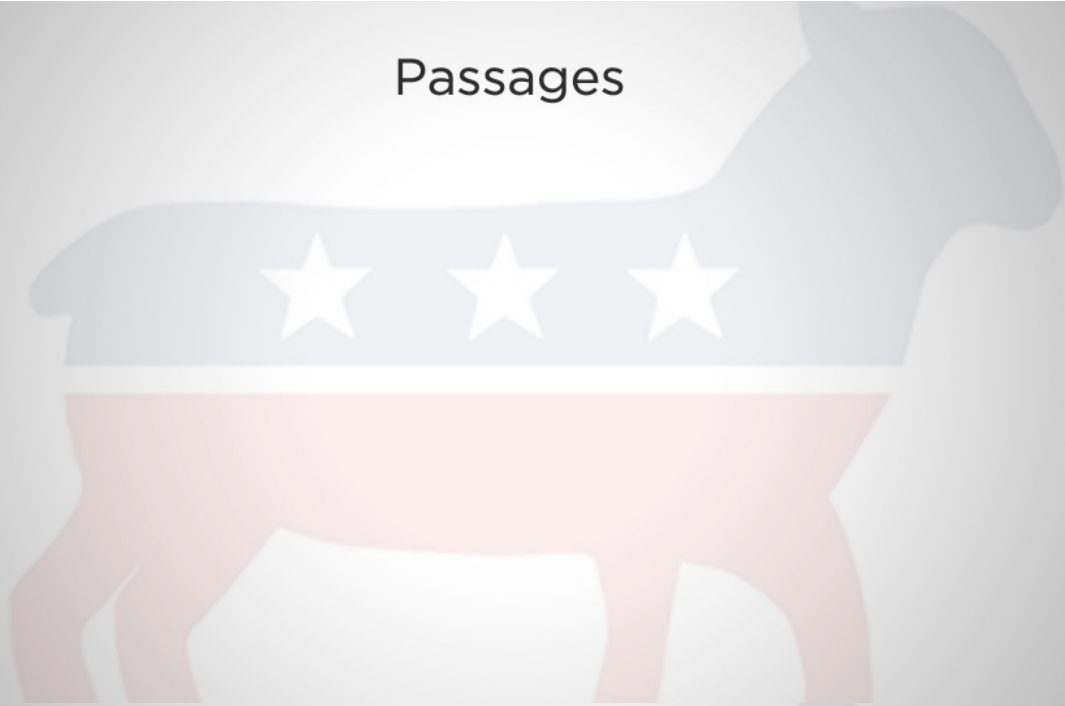
Principles – Welcome immigrants  
Protect borders



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Priorities – Immigration reform

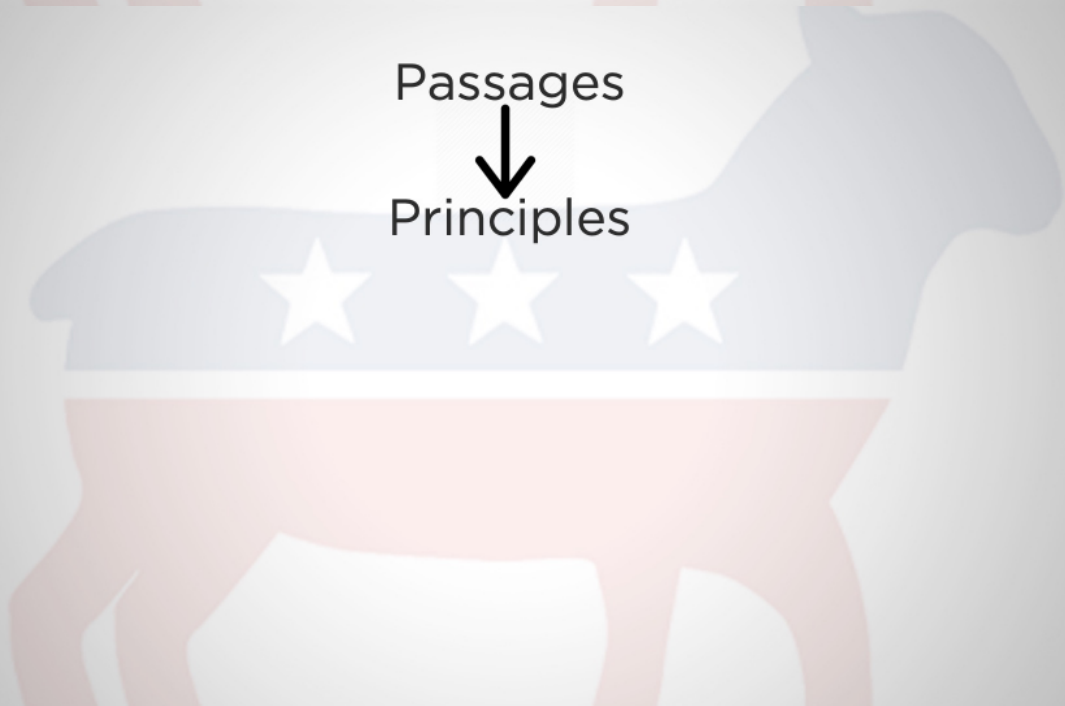
Passages



Passages



Principles



Passages



Principles



Policies

Passages



Principles



Policies

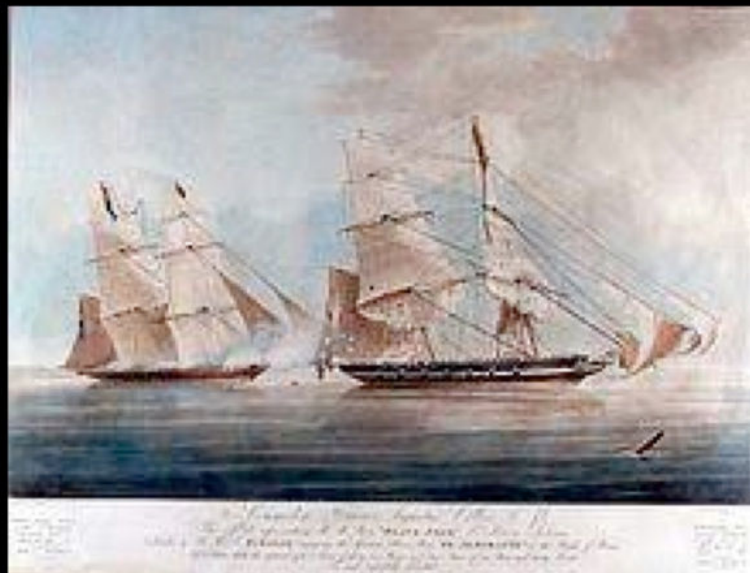


Priorities

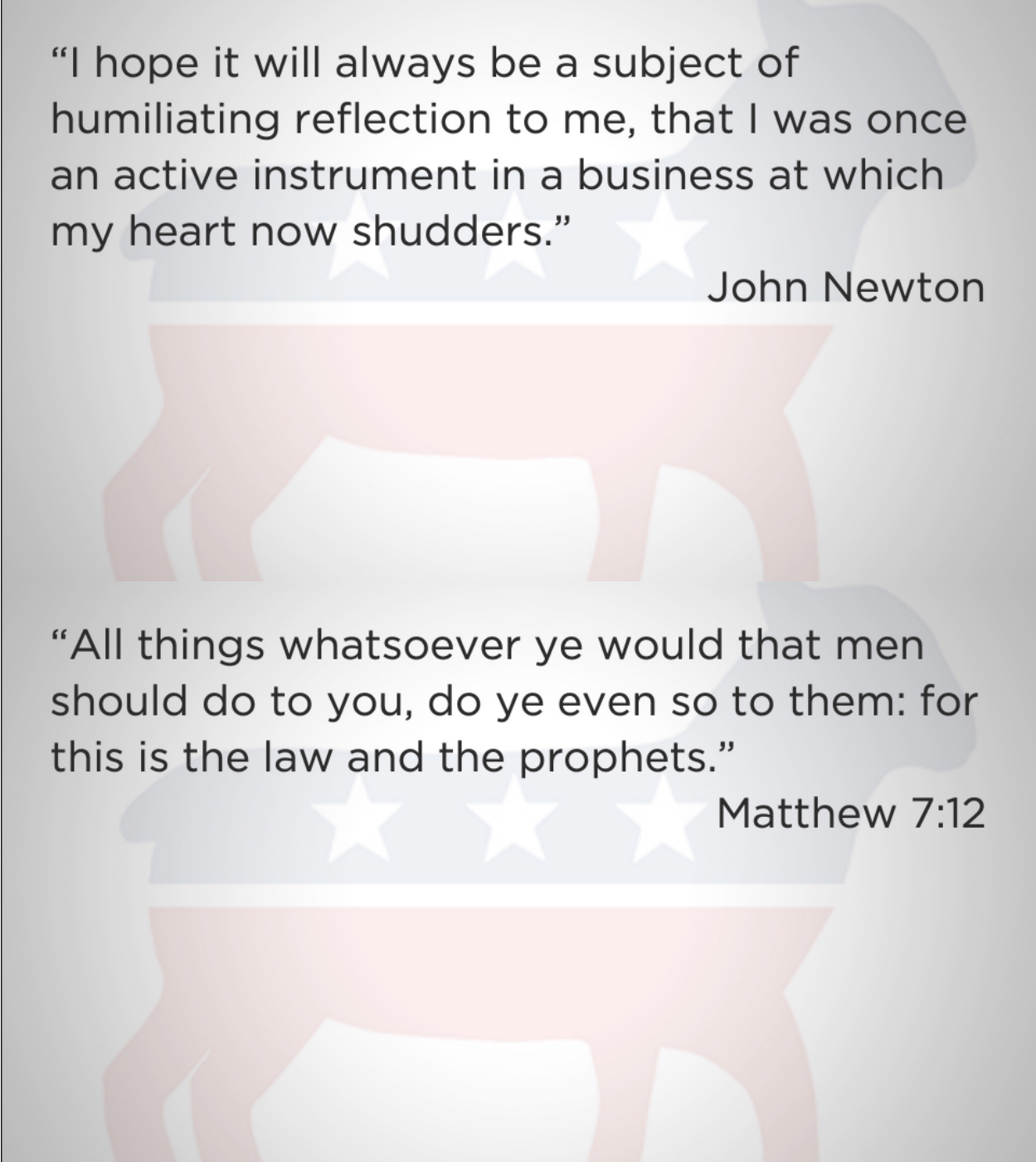
How can we be suitably affected?

- He **prayed** consistently
- He **responded** wisely
- He **engaged** selectively









“I hope it will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me, that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders.”

John Newton

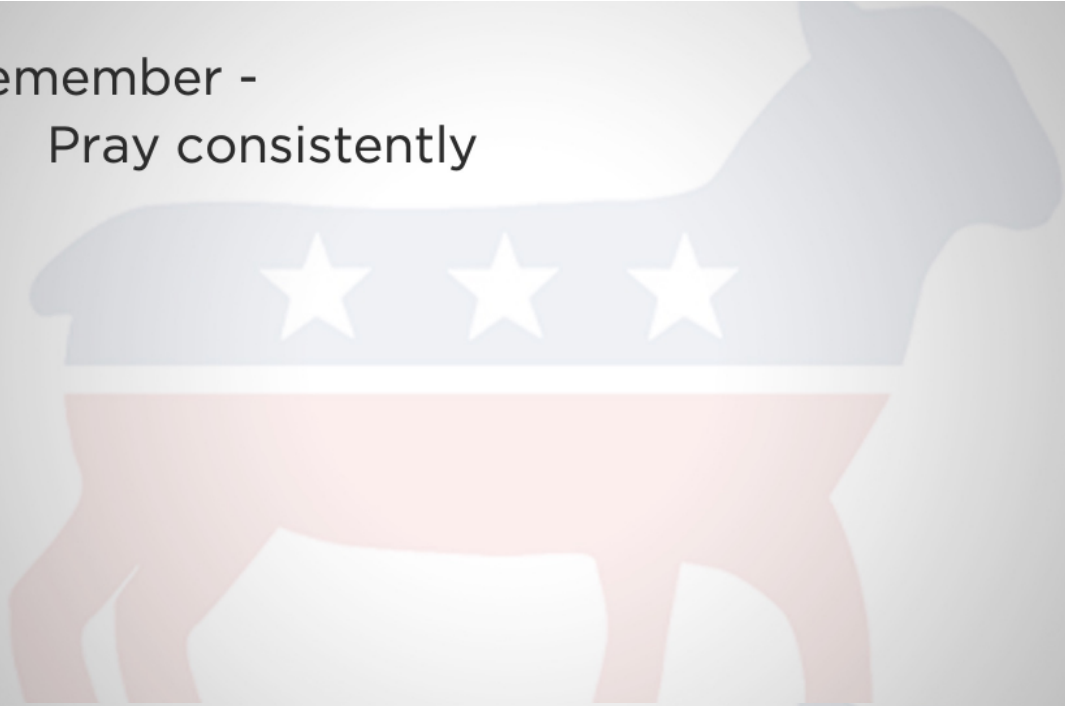
“All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

Matthew 7:12



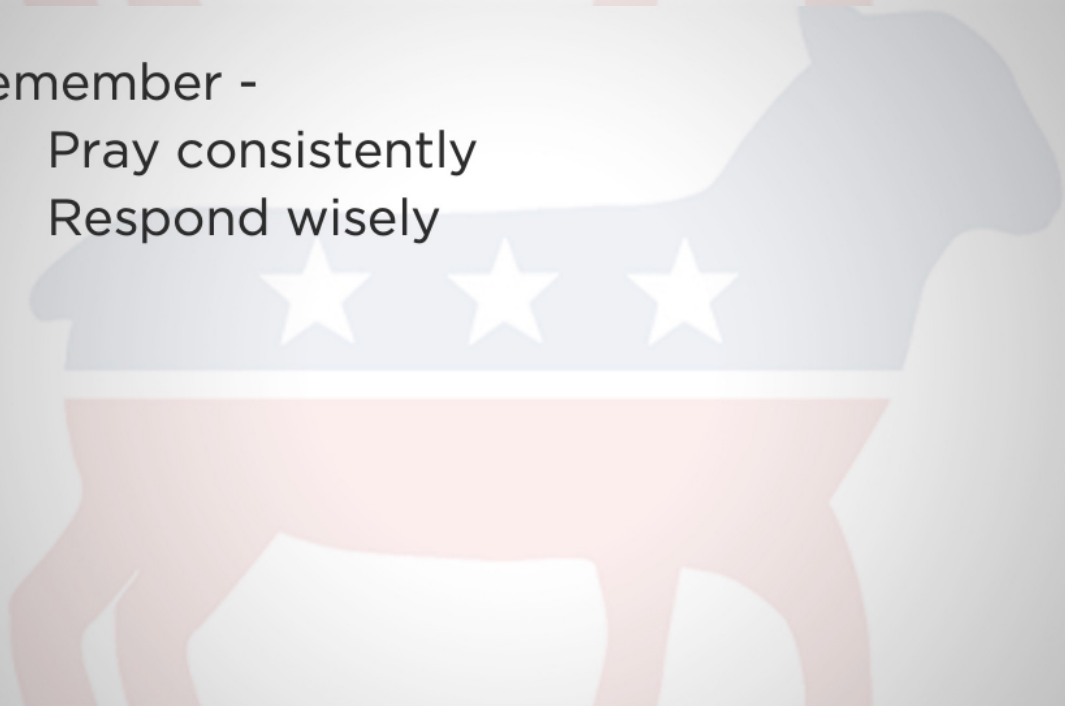
Remember -

- Pray consistently



Remember -

- Pray consistently
- Respond wisely



Remember -

- Pray consistently
- Respond wisely
- Engage selectively

