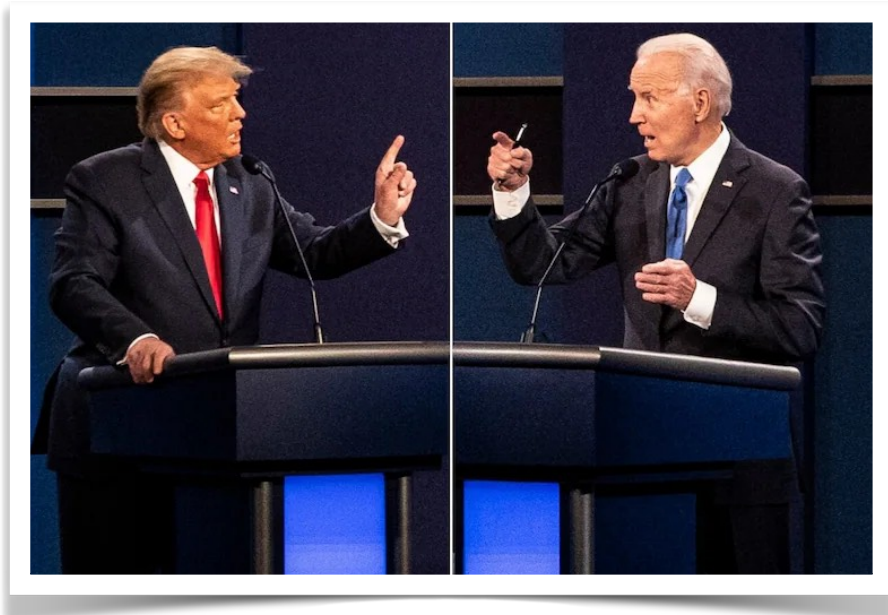


For the Journey

June 27/24 - Rev. Dave Crawford



Some Thoughts on Tonight's Debate:

Do we remember the first time these two met on a debate stage? Not a pretty picture, mostly due to unhinged behaviour on the part of one participant.

Tonight tens of millions will watch the Biden/Trump debate but no live audience and mics will be muted when necessary, thank goodness!

Is it fair to say we don't have any idea what to expect tonight but we hope for civility, integrity, strength, wisdom, and much more than competence? With ongoing war in Ukraine and Israel, and an aggressive China on the rise, the

American election in November may be the most important election in decades. Why should Canadians care about what happens in America?

Beyond vital trade considerations I believe we need a strong American neighbour, the world needs a strong America. Nature abhors a vacuum and a weakened U.S.A., politically, societally, creates a power vacuum eagerly filled by less democratically-inclined global players. Tonight's debate is crucial in one sense - to demonstrate to the world that strong, capable leadership will be a reality in the next four years. We'll see how that goes.

As far as religion goes Mr. Biden is a Roman Catholic although his stance on abortion conflicts with Catholic teaching. Mr. Trump was at one time a Presbyterian but a few years back switched to the Evangelical, non-denominational stream. The extent to which either politician's religion drives policy is unclear but seemingly limited.

Religion is nonetheless a key element in the American and global context - the religion of liberal-progressivism, the religion of autocracy, the religion of CCP communism, and that of Islamism, to mention a few.

We aren't Americans but we are Christians. Christians can pray.

Loving, holy God: you rule the ways of peoples, and are sovereign over every earthly government. We pray for tonight's presidential debate, that your Holy Spirit would guide the two contenders, and that respect and honour would be demonstrated, each toward the other. We pray that the considerable issues of the day, globally as well as nationally, will receive reasoned, wise attention. We pray that civility will be present even in heated moments of disagreement, and that collegiality will be shown as as both candidates seek the votes of their citizens.

May the Republican and Democrat nominees present themselves as knowledgeable leaders of integrity, inspired agents of reconciliation, committed ambassadors of hope, and passionate defenders of peace and freedom. May all of our American neighbours and friends find tonight's political discussion to be enriching, informative and inspirational.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

I hope you enjoy the Debate.
I hope and pray it is beneficial in many ways.

Grace and Peace,
Dave C.