

The Great Commission or the Great Omission?

When thinking about writing this article, it was a challenge to determine which civil society issue should enjoy priority this week.

There are so many things happening in our nation, so I decided to try and capture it all in one phrase: "Commissions of inquiry."

In church circles, we have for many years preached the message of the Great Commission of Christ.

The Great Commission is the good news that Jesus Christ is the way to connect with your Creator.

Today we have become so secularized that God does not feature in our deliberations. When the Church loses its ability to preach its message of Hope, I call this the "Great Omission!"

Our Government captured (another term becoming famous) the name "Commission" and, significantly, established many commissions of inquiry.

A commission of inquiry is not a court of law. It serves the purpose of establishing facts and its findings are non-binding.

So, for the commission to have some lasting effect, there must be the political will to enforce the its conclusions. I will come back to the statement: "There must be the political will."

Let us go back a bit. We had the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (1996); Arms Commission, also known as the Seriti Commission (2012); Marikana Commission (2012); Fees Commission (2016); State Capture Inquiry - Zondo Commission (Current); and there are many more.

These commissions reveal to the citizenry the kind of political leadership we have in our country.

The commission's findings will only have a lasting effect when our president decides to bring those implicated in allegations of corruption to face criminal charges.

The Great Omission is evident when the Government spends taxpayers' money on fact-finding commissions and steps away from it with no consequences.

The discussion point is: "Appoint the great commission and start writing the narrative of the great omission."

I have no doubt somebody will place the blame on the commission of inquiry for inconsistencies. Most of the people implicated are our leaders in the political arena.

The following are my thoughts for the upcoming municipal elections:

The order of authority and power lies not with our politicians, but rather with the electorate that voted them into power.

Our democracy is a government of the people by the people! The people in this nation have appointed and voted for those who are in control.

The order of power starts with the people.

How do I vote and make the cross count?

The church has a role here – as fellow citizens of South Africa we need to give guidance to our constituency regarding their vote, even in the local municipal elections.

Our primary challenges are Poverty Eradication, Unemployment, and Inequality.

These three addresses all our primary needs as citizens.

The moral fibre is not only the Church's responsibility, but rather everybody's responsibility. What I need is my quality of life to be addressed.

My primary need is to see poverty, unemployment, and inequalities eradicated. Here are some biblical guidelines that could help you to make your Cross in the right place:

- Prayerfully approach the act of voting:

I Timothy 2:1-2 says, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

- Who is the candidate in your ward?

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)

We are not asking a Christian to rule; we are requesting righteous people to lead.

- Does the candidate have an arrogant attitude? Maybe he/she does not listen to others.

"For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers." (Proverbs 11:4)

A leader who leads alone is a law to himself and will lack accountability and submission.

The candidate who sells the failures of others is not worthy of election.

- Pride will lead to disgrace.

The candidate whose manifesto is to do something about the ward's needs listens to him/her.

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom." (Proverbs 11:2)

Is the candidate a servant leader?

"There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers." (Proverbs 6:16-19)

This scripture alone will assist you in your decision making.

In conclusion, it is our responsibility to do our homework on the candidates in our wards.

Do your homework and get to the voting polls and influence the future of the metro, the nation.

Vote with your conscience.

Do not vote because of loyalty.

Trust the above will be of some help to you. Whatever you do; VOTE!

The Cross makes the difference!

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