

A black and white, upside-down photograph of a city skyline with various skyscrapers and buildings. The image is inverted, with the sky at the bottom and the buildings at the top.

MATTHEW

The Upside umog Kingdom

Matthew 6

Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness



Matthew 6:19-24

You cannot serve both God and money

MATTHEW
The Upside down Kingdom



You cannot serve both God and money

- Matthew 6 is about not doing things “to be seen by man.”
- Those who do will “have their reward in full” but will not be rewarded in heaven.
- Jesus directs us to not waste our lives storing up treasures on earth but to focus on storing up treasures in heaven.



You cannot serve both God and money

- Jesus exhorts them not to focus on acquiring material things.
- He also tells them not to worry about what they don't have.
- Jesus "strikes at the core of human selfishness, challenging both the well-to-do who have possessions to guard and the poor who wish they could acquire them.'



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You cannot serve both God and money

- In the ancient culture, a “good” eye meant, literally, a healthy eye.
- It also meant an eye that looked generously on others.
- A good eye was generous, looking to give to others.
- An “evil eye” was greedy, always looking with jealousy at what others have.



You cannot serve both God and money

- The key point of Jesus is: you cannot serve both God and money.
- Mammon was a common Aramaic term for money.
- Those who say they love God but live as if money is their master are not really followers of Jesus.



You cannot serve both God and money

- Those who follow Jesus see their wealth simply as a tool to be used for God's kingdom: to share His Gospel and help those in need.
- True disciples see everything they have as belonging to God and themselves as only stewards of it (Matthew 25:14–30).



You cannot serve both God and money

- It is not money itself that is the root of all evil, but the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10).
- The problem is living as if money is your master.
- Many church leaders believe that money is a much bigger idol in modern American culture than most of us care to admit.



Matthew 6:25-32

Don't worry; trust God

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Don't worry; trust God

- Worrying is the flip side of materialism, another way of making money your master instead of God.
- Those who really trust God as their master don't worry. They know God will take care of them.
- Twice in this passage, Jesus uses a Jewish rhetorical device, "how much more?"



Don't worry; trust God

- If God cares for the birds and the flowers and the grass, “how much more” will He feed and clothe you who as His children?
- In the next chapter of the Sermon on the Mount. “If you [humans], then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:11).



Don't worry; trust God

- There is a stark contrast in this section – wealth and treasures (verses 19–24) versus basic needs (verses 25–34).
- The truth here is that pursuing wealth brings anxiety and worry, but serving God means letting go of worry because you can trust Him to provide.



Don't worry; trust God

- Jesus refers to Solomon “in all of his glory.” It was Solomon who said, “Whoever loves money never has enough” (Ecclesiastes 5:10).
- It was Solomon who concluded at the end of his life that all his pursuit of worldly wealth was meaningless, like chasing after the wind. If we put our hope in material things, we will always be disappointed.



Don't worry; trust God

- Jesus never condemns people for having these basic needs.
- God knows you need these things (verse 32). He simply says we don't need to worry about them.
- God will provide what we need.
- To serve God rather than money means to trust God to provide what we need.



Don't worry; trust God

- These passages address two of the greatest issues facing Americans today – materialism and anxiety.
- Anxiety is the most common mental illness in the United States today, and it's continually on the rise.
- Even though we are one of the wealthiest nations in the world, we are only 19th in "happiness" and falling every year.



Matthew 6:33-34

**Seek first God's kingdom
and His righteousness**

MATTHEW
The Upside down Kingdom



Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness

- The solution to worry and materialism is to seek God's kingdom first.
- This is what it means to serve God as your master.
- When we spend our lives seeking our own happiness, prosperity, comfort or wealth, we are letting money "rule" us, control our decisions and our priorities.



Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness

- True disciples take up their crosses and deny themselves and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24–26).
- Theologian N. T. Wright: "Following Jesus is the definition of what being a Christian means; and Jesus is not leading us on a pleasant afternoon hike, but on a walk into danger and risk."



Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness

- This is a total change of your goals, priorities, and purpose in life. Your life is no longer your own (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).
- Your life belongs to Christ. Everything you do will be for His glory and His kingdom (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17).
- This is what it means to take up your cross and follow Him.



Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness

- Jesus says to seek His kingdom and His righteousness.
- It's not just about growing His kingdom, but pursuing righteousness, both in your own life and in the world around you.
- In Romans, Paul writes that the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.



Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness

- Following Jesus, pursuing the things of God, setting our mind on things above, abiding in Christ, seeking first His kingdom will grow the Fruit of the Spirit in you.
- When you seek first His kingdom, He will grow His righteousness in you. Seeking His kingdom and His righteousness also means seeking what He says is right in the world.

Lessons from
the 2020 Election

#1 - The Polls Were Wrong

- Nothing could be more self-evident.
- The polls were wrong for just about every election in America.
- We were told that pollsters learned some difficult lessons from 2016.
- Apparently, they didn't learn them very well.
- Frank Luntz - "The political polling profession is done. It is devastating for my industry."

Biden Opens Gaping 17-Point Lead on Trump in Wisconsin, Poll Finds

A new poll has the former vice president over Trump by 17 points in Wisconsin, where the coronavirus is surging.

By Alexa Lardieri, Staff Writer Oct. 28, 2020, at 12:10 p.m.



IN COLLABORATION WITH
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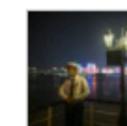
NEWS

Cartoons on President Donald Trump



PHOTOS

Photos: Daily Life, Disrupted



PHOTOS

Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict Escalates



NEWS

The Week in Cartoons: Nov. 2-6



NOV. 3, 2020, AT 1:09 AM

Final Forecast: Democrats Have A 3-In-4 Chance Of Flipping The Senate

A ton of seats are in play, making a wide range of outcomes plausible — including Republicans retaining control

By [Nathaniel Rakich](#)

Filed under [2020 Election](#)

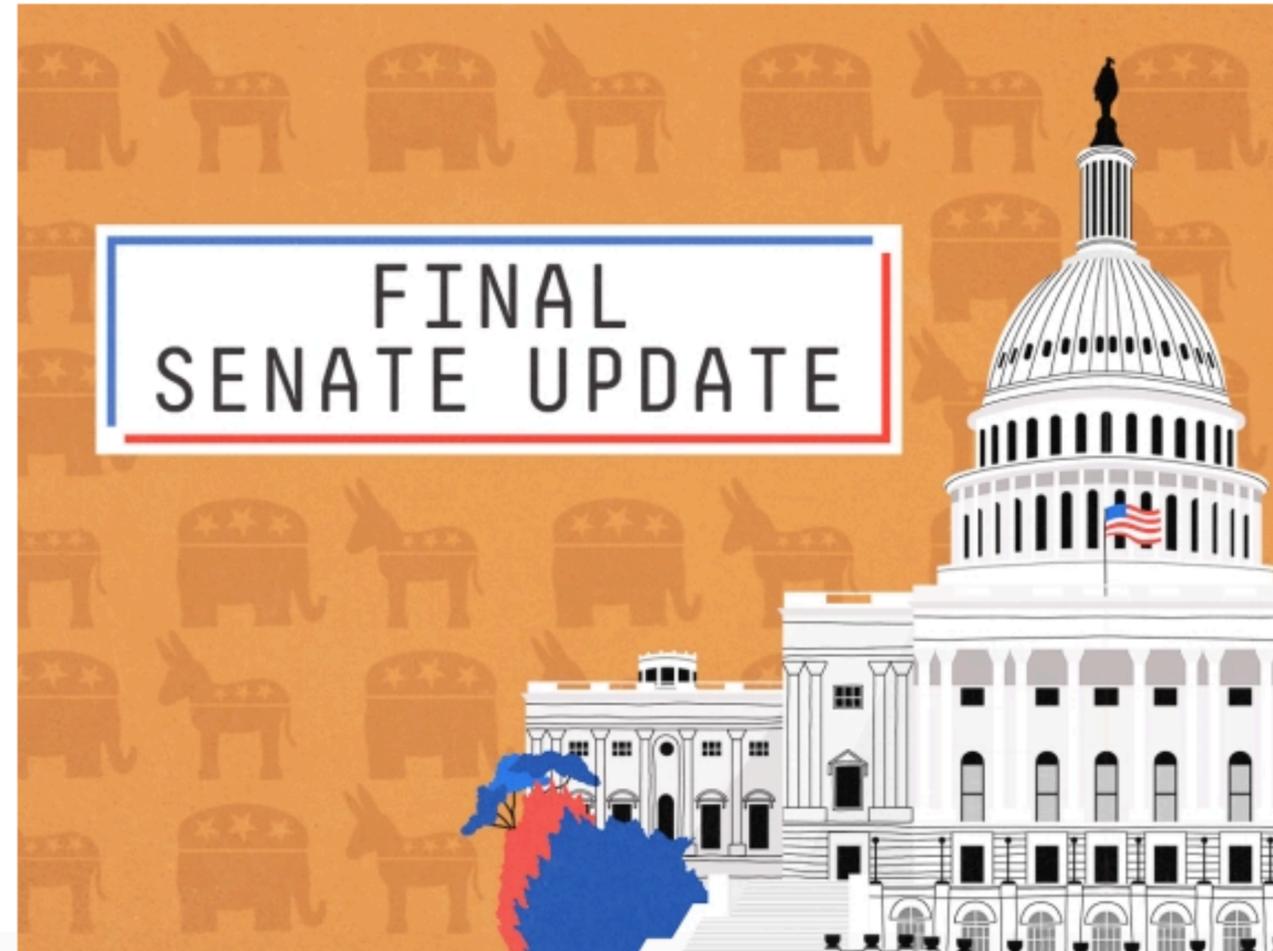


ILLUSTRATION BY FIVETHIRTYEIGHT / FABIO BUONOCORE

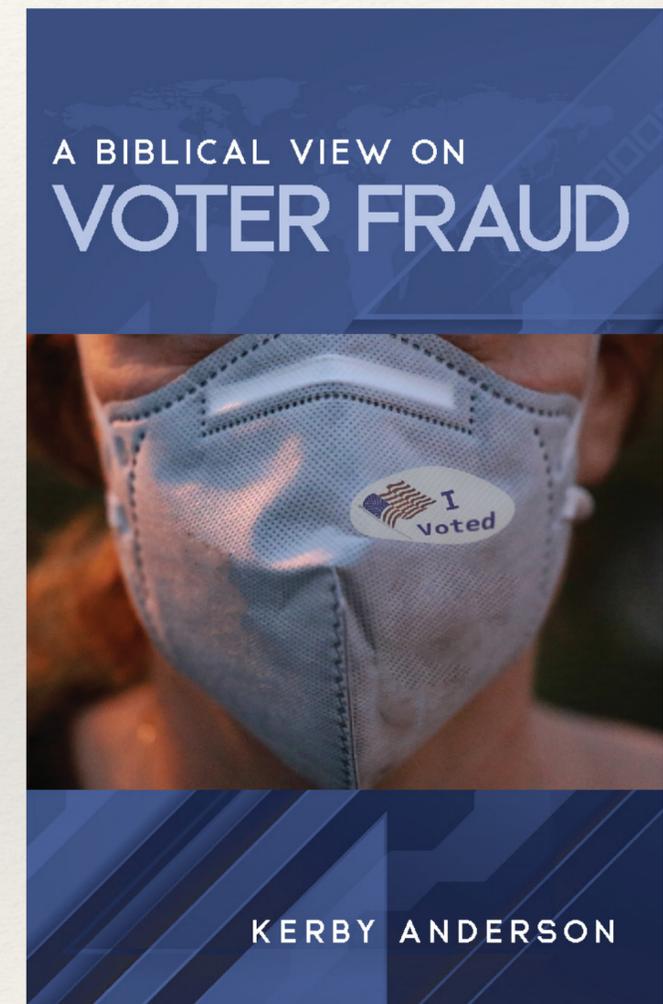
#1 - The Polls Were Wrong

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

James 4:13-14

#2 - Election Fraud Took Place

- This also seems self-evident.
- This year nearly every American can see voter fraud.
- Many politicians and groups deny that fraud exists.
- Hans von Spakovski and the *Heritage Foundation* have put together “A Sampling of Recent Election Fraud Cases from Across the United States.”
- So many examples occurred during the 2020 election.



#2 - Election Fraud Took Place

- Proverbs 11:1 - “A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.”
- Proverbs 20:10 - “Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the Lord.”
- Psalm 120:2 - “Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.”
- Jeremiah 17:9 - “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

#3 - Censorship is Rising

Twitter Won't Let The New York Post Tweet Until It Agrees To Behave Itself



Abram Brown Forbes Staff
Business

f
t
in



A front-page headline on the The New York Post reports on the criticism about Chirlane McCray's ... [+] ROBERT NICKELSBURG/GETTY IMAGES

The New York Post has been sent to time-out.

#3 - Censorship is Rising

- Ephesians 5:6–10 - “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”
- Romans 12:2 - “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 - “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

#4 - Experts Don't Know Us



David Brooks 
@nytdavidbrooks



Our job in the media is to capture reality so that when reality voices itself, like last night, people aren't surprised. Pretty massive failure. We still are not good at capturing the rightward half of the country.

10:48 AM · Nov 4, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

#4 - Experts Don't Know Us

- The people who control your life don't know you.
- Charles Murray put together a 25-question quiz to assess "How thick is your bubble?"
- Here are a few of the questions:
 - Have you ever walked on a factory floor?
 - Have you or your spouse ever purchased a pickup truck?
 - Have you ridden on a Greyhound bus?

**Do you live in a bubble?
A quiz**

PBS 
**NEWS
HOUR**

#4 - Experts Don't Know Us

- Other “bubble” questions:
 - During the last five years, have you or your spouse gone fishing?
 - Have you ever had a close friend who was an evangelical Christian?
 - Have you ever had a job that caused something to hurt at the end of the day?
 - Who is Jimmie Johnson?
 - What does the word Branson mean to you?

#4 - Experts Don't Know Us

- Many of the bubbliest zip codes were located in New York or California.
- New York City - Upper West Side, Upper & Lower East Side
- California - San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Los Angeles region
- Other bubble zip codes were in the Washington, DC area, especially in suburban communities that house politicians, bureaucrats, and other government official.
- These are the “experts” who control your life, but don't know you.

#4 - Experts Don't Know Us

- 1 Chronicles 12:32 - “The men of Issachar had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.”
- Proverbs 1:7 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
- James 1:5 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”