



Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV): *Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV) *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

Isaiah 1:17 (NKJV): *"Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow."*

Common Misconceptions Clarified:

Misconception #1: "Politics isn't what is important. Preaching the Gospel is what is important."

If you are caught with a Bible, singing a Christian hymn, praying, or telling others about Jesus you can face up to 15 years in a labor camp and your family may be at risk. (WorldHelp.net)

Politics can either be conducive to the spreading of the Gospel or obstructive. The Lord wants it to be conducive, while Satan wants it to be obstructive.

REALITY: "Preaching the Gospel is inevitably a political act."

Matthew 10:16-23 (NLT) *"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me."*

ICHTHYS Fish

- I – Iota or Iesous (which means Jesus)
- X – Chi or Christos (which means Christ)
- N – Theta or Theou (which means God)
- Y – Upsilon or Huios (which means Son)
- Y – Sigma or Soter (which means Savior)

The Communists in the Soviet Union first banned the ability to preach to minors, then for religious organizations to own property, then Christian symbols were removed from schools, eventually priests and pastors began to be labeled as enemies of the state and sent to labor camps (aka gulags) or executed.

Communism requires a primary allegiance to the state authority. Christianity teaches a primary allegiance to God.

Misconception #2: "We are citizens of Heaven, not of earth. Politics are earthly and temporary and the things of Heaven are all that matter."

(Philippians 3:20-21, NLT) *But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior. 21 He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like His own, using the same power with which He will bring everything under His control.*

We are also seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6).



REALITY: We are dual citizens.

Paul was a citizen of heaven and a Roman citizen. He even used the rights granted to him by that citizenship to get out of government punishment.

(Acts 22:25-29, NLT)

When they tied Paul down to lash him, Paul said to the officer standing there, "Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been tried?"

26 When the officer heard this, he went to the commander and asked, "What are you doing? This man is a Roman citizen!"

27 So the commander went over and asked Paul, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?"

"Yes, I certainly am," Paul replied.

28 "I am, too," the commander muttered, "and it cost me plenty!"

Paul answered, "But I am a citizen by birth!"

29 The soldiers who were about to interrogate Paul quickly withdrew when they heard he was a Roman citizen, and the commander was frightened because he had ordered him bound and whipped.

To be a United States citizen is an immense privilege and this privilege is under attack.

Thomas Jefferson, a Founding Father, wrote in the Declaration of Independence,

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness... and with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

Satan would love to destroy the United States and the rights associated with our Constitution. Because just like Paul, it grants us rights, given by God - enforced by a godly government.

We can be in this world, but not of this world.

Jesus prayed to the Father,

(John 17:14-15, NKJV) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

Christians are meant to make the world more like heaven.

The Lords Prayer: *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10, NKJV)*

We are ambassadors of Christ, a term of a political office (2 Cor. 5:20).

Jesus called us to be salt and light in this world.

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Ephesians 5:11 (NKJV): And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

NOTES



What we do in this lifetime is extremely important in God's eyes and affects our rewards in eternity.

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV): "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV): "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NKJV): "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come,"

Titus 2:13-15 (NKJV): our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

We are meant to be zealous for good works.

-Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

Church isn't the destination of our faith, it's the gas station where we get fueled up to go and reach the world.

Misconception #4: "Jesus wasn't involved in politics, nor were His disciples."

REALITY: Jesus was crucified by political leaders and so were many of His disciples.

Jesus was sent to trial before the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the religious political body of 71 members that judged criminal, civil, and religious cases and could make judgments up to the death penalty (in which they required Roman permission).

(Matthew 23:23-24, NKJV) "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. Blind guides!"

John the Baptist, who Jesus said was the greatest of all men, was beheaded for exposing the evil deeds of Herod and his wife Herodias.

Beheading in the New Testament is associated with the honor of martyrdom. The saints who will reign in the millennial kingdom are the ones who are beheaded during the Great Tribulation. (Revelation 20:4-6)

-Esther risked her own life to influence the king and the legislation in order to prevent genocide of her people.

She fasted for three days and decided to approach the king saying to herself "If I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16).

-Mordecai uncovered Haman's plans to exterminate the Jews and was ultimately promoted to second in command in the Persian Empire.



-Daniel was highly influential in government, even in a wicked nation through 3 different king's regimes.

-Nathan the prophet boldly confronted King David over his sin that David thought no one knew about.

-Prophet Samuel rebuked King Saul when he disobeyed God's command.

-Jeremiah advised the king to surrender to the Babylonians so the city of Jerusalem would be spared, but he didn't listen and Jerusalem was destroyed.

-Joseph was second in command of Egypt (a wicked pagan nation) and governed with wisdom.

"I am disturbed when I see the majority of so-called Christians having such little understanding of the real nature of the faith they profess."

Misconception #5: "Christians must obey every form of government"

(Romans 13:1-4, NIV) Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

The Third Reich in Nazi Germany loved to preach this passage of Scripture out of context to associate obedience to the state as a divine command from God.

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV)

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

REALITY: Christians are to obey godly governance that is in alignment with the Word and righteousness of God.

-Peter and the apostles were arrested for preaching about Christ.

(Acts 5:29, NKJV): Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

-Peter was freed from prison by an angel of the Lord.

-Moses led an uprising against the established government of Egypt defying the Pharaoh's orders and leading his people out of Egypt. He then instituted an entirely new legal system and government straight from God.

-Rahab hid the two spies and misled the King's soldiers and God granted her mercy and reward for that act.

-Elijah confronted and contested King Ahab and Queen Jezebel and put his life at risk.



-Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to obey King Nebuchadnezzar and bow to an idol and were thrown into a fiery furnace. God divinely protected them and they survived.

-The wise men also disobeyed Herod when they were divinely warned in a dream not to return to him and tell him they found the child (Jesus).

We Must Always Remember:

- **Our identity in Christ supersedes our national identity. Our heavenly citizenship is more important than our earthly citizenship.**

Philippians 3:20-21 (NKJV): For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

- **Abiding in the Word is more important than abiding in the news.**
- **Our spiritual family is more important than our political party**

Galatians 3:26 (NKJV) - "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith."

Ephesians 2:18-19 (NKJV) - "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God"

Matthew 12:50 (NKJV) - "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

John 13:34-35 (NKJV) - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- **No matter what happens in the world, nothing can take us away from Jesus. Only yourselves.**
- **No President, no government, and no human leader can save you, only Jesus can.**

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Acts 4:12 - "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."