



News and Current Events :: Tea Party's

Tea Party's - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/15 20:51

As many of you are probably aware, today hundreds if not thousands of cities throughout our country had "Tea Party's" in memory of the great Boston Tea Party years ago. I'm not personally big into politics, but today I participated in one in Charlotte, NC at the city hall. Probably 2-3,000 people showed up. I thought I'd share some of my pictures of what might be a historic day in our nation.

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Jimmy.Humphrey/2009TeaParty?feat=directlink#>

Re: Tea Party's, on: 2009/4/16 8:13

They had 1,500 people show up at the tea party in little ol' Asheville, NC.... and the local news, Channel 13, totally ignored it.

6 months ago 1 wiccan hippie chick parked herself under a magnolia tree in Asheville to protest it being scheduled to be cut down... and Channel 13 did a live report from "the tree" every night for a month.

12 sodomites showed up a couple months to protest something in Asheville... and Channel 13 talked about it for 2 days.

1,500 people showed up yesterday for a tea party... and not one word on Channel 13.

I'm supposed to believe there is no media bias??

Krispy

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/16 8:15

Yeah, not even all the local news stations in Charlotte showed up to cover it. It looks like only 2 or 3. And I thought, it's not often that many people gather together in uptown Charlotte of all places, except for a concert or professional sports game. Yet, it received very little attention. I'm dying to know if the local paper even covered it.

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 8:21

By the way... I think the "tea parties" are GREAT! This is what made America great. Common everyday people demanding that they be heard.

I'm sure there are some well meaning Christians who don't think we should participate in things like this... but y'all know what? For the first time in a LOOOOONG time I feel like my time spent in the Marines was worth something. I feel like maybe I played a role in securing freedoms and rights that allow things like yesterday to happen.

I hope this movement just gets bigger and bigger and bigger... and that it is coupled with a massive revival. Wouldn't that be awesome?

Krispy

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 8:23

I've been in that crowd for Panthers games. That's what I like about Charlotte... you can jump off the highway and be in downtown in about 2 mins, and it doesn't take long to get out of there.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 8:47

I just talked w/ a friend who told me that Channel 13 did do a piece on the tea party during it's 6 o'clock news. I saw the 11 o'clock news and there was nothing about it.

So I need to retract, they did cover it with a small piece. But it's certainly not the coverage that the 1 lone tree hugger or the sodomites received.

(they should have cut that tree down and used one of it's branches to fashion a broom out of, and then that wiccan could have been a real witch!)

Krispy

Re: - posted by White_Stone (), on: 2009/4/16 12:15

Watching the Tea Parties and waiting for what is to come. Someone on the other side *acting as a Tea Party member* will throw the first punch and the innocent will be blamed. Martial Law will be enacted and the heavy hand of the Government will slam down on all of us. The scenario plays out in my mind as if it were scripted by Hollywood. It is blatantly clear, just as a red sky at morning means storms brewing.

This is not something I want or even fear, just what I see coming.

I have been praying for Jesus to increase my strength. He is doing so but the growing process is painful. My Step Father died before we could get to see him. Pray for my family, please, they believe they are saved but they are in mortal danger. I praise Jesus for His faithfulness in answering my prayer and stand on

Quote:
-----Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

His will be done,
white stone

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 13:12

White_Stone... sorry to hear of your loss, and you are very much in my prayers.

As to your first paragraph, I refuse to be so negative. I still believe in the power of God to turn a nation around. He did it over and over again with Israel.

If the hammer comes down, let it. May I be the first to die, for I will not live under a tyrannical government unless it is a direct order from God to be in a land that has one in order to reach the lost.

Krispy

Re: Tea Party's, on: 2009/4/16 13:48

I wonder what sets us apart from the thinking of the world.

We have a million excuses for not being "as He was in the world" but what of Paul saying "follow me as I follow Christ" ?

Can we see either at these protests?

What sets us apart in the world?

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 14:07

Clarify for this dumb hillbilly... I dont understand your question.

Krispy

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/16 14:09

Good question. In part of what I have understood about the gospel, we as believers are by nature protestors. What makes me different than the unbeliever at the same rally is that while I might post a sign or raise my voice about an issue, I don't operate under the delusion that this world is all that there is. Nor am I seeking to hold onto it by effecting political change. While passing through this world as a pilgrim, I seek to adjust things in this temporary world. I'm not seeking to build a kingdom in this world like many who partake in politics. Nor do I hope to bring about some everlasting change in the kingdoms of this world. But that doesn't mean I don't adjust the climate wherever I may reside for the time being.

edit When I stay at a hotel for but a few days, I adjust the thermostat as close as possible to my liking. By no means do I hope to stay in the hotel forever, I just seek to make it more like "home" as much as possible, though I know it shall never be such.

Re: - posted by White_Stone (), on: 2009/4/16 14:36

Dear Krispy,

Glad you asked him to go into detail, Krispy. I understood clearly that time. Thanks for phrasing it so precisely, KingJimmy. It makes it understandable how a Christian could take part in a Tea Party and not just to witness.

Kind regards,
white stone

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 14:44

I just don't see protesting taxes in the N.T..

Guess "I'm" the dumb hillbilly.

I can see Peacefully taking a stand against abortion though... but taxes? - just can't find any justification in The Book.

Forgive my asking.

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 15:40

Dear brother Krispy...not so long ago you described a new relationship with the Lord, how great it was and so on. Can I ask you, is it sustained? Beware of politics, it will quench the Spirit quicker than anything that I know. Just for the record, I thought the voice of the people were heard in the elections? If people do not like what they see now, then the majority should vote against it next time around. I think the perceived, and possibly real perception of a majority of this country is, "where were the tea party's when President Bush was in power?" And so, it seems like just another small political movement. Let's put all of our hope in Jesus to turn this nation around. Remember, the Jewish people detested tax's, nothing much has changed.

Jesus put the issue to rest when He said to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God." And remember that Paul confirms this teaching, and under a despot like Nero who certainly did not use the tax's wisely, that was not the point. Nero used much of the tax's to persecute, in the most horrendous ways, our brothers and sisters. So I say, I don't want to live in fear and paranoia, but live as unto God knowing that persecution is coming. So it is vital that you stay near to Jesus. Throw yourself into the political arena and you will quench the Spirit of God in you.....brother Frank

Re: Tea Party's - posted by HomeFree89 (), on: 2009/4/16 17:08

I may draw some flack for asking this, but I think this question bears asking. Do you think these tea parties are biblical and have the spirit of Christ behind them?

Jesus said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" Do you think that Caesar (not a godly man) used the money for good things? Probably not! But Jesus still paid taxes to him.

Quote:
-----By the way... I think the "tea parties" are GREAT! This is what made America great. Common everyday people demanding that they be heard.

Do you really think that the Boston Tea Party was a good thing? It appears to be rebellion. I'm not saying we should go along and do the ungodly things, but again, Jesus paid taxes to an ungodly government.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/16 17:53

Quote:

I may draw some flack for asking this, but I think this question bears asking. Do you think these tea parties are biblical and have the spirit of Christ behind them?

There is a major difference between our times and then. Rome was an occupying force in Judea. They ruled with an oppressive military hand. You didn't protest their occupation unless you wanted to lose your head. Thankfully, we live in a country where this is not the case, and indeed, our very founding documents encourage us to publicly air our grievances with the government in a civil and peaceful manner.

We can do such, and still render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. If you are in the position to do so, do you not express concerns about how to better run whatever company you may work for? If you are involved in a local club of some sort, do you not express concerns about how to better run the organization?

If we can express our grievances in these contexts, then why not express them in a government such as ours? After all, our government is "by the people, for the people, and of the people." Our elected officials need our feedback on a regular basis, and not simply on election day. If they "represent" us, then we need to express what we think on a given issue so that they can vote accordingly.

These things are not contrary to kingdom principles. It's simply part of being "in the world." Though, we must never be of it.

Re: - posted by wind_blows, on: 2009/4/16 18:19

Hey KingJimmy

I don't take part in things that pertain to politics or the government. I have my reasons for that but it's a whole other thread:-) I just wanted to say I really enjoyed your pictures and thanks for sharing them. Looks like it was a lovely day there. We are finally getting sunshine here:-)

Have a great day
Your little sis in Him

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 20:17

Php 2:13 For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Php 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings,

Php 2:15 so that you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. Among these you shine as lights in the world,

Php 2:16 holding forth the Word of Life, so that I may rejoice with you in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain nor labored in vain.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/16 22:48

"Murmurings and disputings" is about cancerous and abusive speech that is done under one's breath. It is not the expression of disagreements on opinions and issues of policy.

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 23:25

Quote:
-----Dear brother Krispy...not so long ago you described a new relationship with the Lord, how great it was and so on. Can I ask you, is it sustained?

Are you kidding me? I mean really....are you kidding me?

Since Krispy is using tremendous self-control by not responding, I will be the one to defend him.

Appolus, please try not to mask your arrogance with scripture and spiritual talk.

Re: , on: 2009/4/16 23:48

2Co 10:3 For though walking about in flesh, we do not war according to flesh.

2Co 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds,

2Co 10:5 pulling down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing in to captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ;

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 0:07

Quote

"Murmurings and disputings" is about cancerous and abusive speech that is done under one's breath. It is not the expression of disagreements on opinions and issues of policy."

G1261

διαλογισμός

dialogismos

dee-al-og-is-mos'

From G1260; discussion, that is, (internal) consideration (by implication purpose), or (external) debate: - dispute, doubtful (-ing), imagination, reasoning, thought.

Matthew Henry says of these verses.....

"The apostle exhorts them in these verses to adorn their Christian profession by a suitable temper and behaviour, in several instances. 1. By a cheerful obedience to the commands of God (Phi_2:14): Â"Do all things, do your duty in every branch of it, without murmurings. Do it, and do not find fault with it. Mind your work, and do not quarrel with it.Â" God's commands were given to be obeyed, not to be disputed."

God commanded to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesurs and unto God the the things that are God's. This is

directly from the mouth of Jesus and is later backed up by the Holy Spirit through Paul. If a Christian engages in protests against this teaching, can any good come of it?.....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 7:31

Quote:
-----God commanded to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. This is directly from the mouth of Jesus and is later backed up by the Holy Spirit through Paul. If a Christian engages in protests against this teaching, can any good come of it?.....brother Frank

Paul also had no problem whatsoever invoking his rights as a citizen of Rome to defend himself, to speak his message, and to have an audience with the Roman authorities, Frank. He did this several times, especially when he was wrongfully arrested.

You have to take scripture as a whole, not scissor cut the parts you like.

The tea parties were non-violent. The tea parties were Americans simply exercising their rights to freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, and freedom of redress.

There was nothing illegal about them. In fact they were encouraged by our founding fathers and by the constitution and the bill of rights... which were all written by men who for the most part believed in the same Lord as we do.

I fail to see a problem, and I fail to see anything unbiblical. The tea parties were not doing anything that Paul didn't do, and that Luke recorded in Acts under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

If you feel a conviction not to participate, then don't sin against your conscience. But don't condemn those who don't share your conviction.

And by the way, I think the tea parties should have started during the Bush administration. However, the fire wasn't hot enough to get people motivated. It is now.

And by the way, I have no problem with those whom I disagree with politically doing the same thing so long as it is done legally and with order. I served my country in order to protect their rights too. I know for a fact that most other veterans feel exactly as I do. I don't have to like what they have to say, but I do support their right to say it... in a legal and orderly way.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 7:36

And Frank... as to my walk with the Lord... I'm not sure why you brought it up on this thread, but I'll go ahead and answer that question:

Yes.

Will you now argue to the contrary? ;-)

Krispy

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 9:16

Quote

"Paul also had no problem whatsoever invoking his rights as a citizen of Rome to defend himself, to speak his message, and to have an audience with the Roman authorities, Frank. He did this several times, especially when he was wrongfully arrested.

You have to take scripture as a whole, not scissor cut the parts you like."

Krispy, are you saying that the Scriptures contradict themselves? Did Jesus lay to rest the question of tax's or not. When Paul teaches to pay your tax's without question, is he right or wrong. If Jesus did put it to rest, if Paul is correct and if the Scriptures cannot be broken, and they do not contradict themselves, then where does that leave Christians who protest the paying of tax's? As to me supposedly questioning your relationship with the Lord, well, anyone with a good heart who knows me will know that was not what I was doing. Hopefully I answered that question in my PM to you.....Frank

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 10:06

Quote:

-----Did Jesus lay to rest the question of tax's or not.

Amazingly, Jesus never corrected anyone when they talked about sinners and tax collectors in the same sentence, 8-) and the one tax collector Jesus knew...he saved. Matthew repented and left his tax collecting...interesting.

Just for the record God, Himself, warned Israel of the evils of human government. When Israel demanded a human king, just like the heathen nations, God told them what would happen...

No one is protesting the paying of taxes, but they are protesting the destruction of liberty in paying too much tax. We still live in a country that offers us the opportunity to freely protest the actions of our government. If a christian chooses to do that, then they are free to do that. Someone mentioned protesting against abortion, well, our taxes pay for abortions; Is it okay to protest taxes in the context of protesting abortions?

Re: - posted by fuehrerbe21 (), on: 2009/4/17 11:43

Jesus told us to render to Caesar what is Caesar's, but he never told us we had to enjoy doing so.

I'm with Krispy on this one.

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 11:48

Mahoney writes...

"No one is protesting the paying of taxes, but they are protesting the destruction of liberty in paying too much tax. We still live in a country that offers us the opportunity to freely protest the actions of our government. If a christian chooses to do that, then they are free to do that. Someone mentioned protesting against abortion, well, our taxes pay for abortions; Is it okay to protest taxes in the context of protesting abortions? "

Wow Mahoney, talk about strangling a concept. You should be a contortionist :-)

It was a protest against tax's. You may be the only one who thinks differently. And I think, and you can correct me if I am wrong, that you do so because you are uncomfortable with what Jesus clearly taught and what the Scriptures clearly teach. To me, this is where philosophy and Scriptures meet in a head on collision. You simply cannot hold Scripture to be correct and also justify a Christian protesting tax's, or maybe you can :-) The last question you asked had already been asked and answered. The answer was Nero.

Rom 13:3 For the rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the bad. And do you desire to be not afraid of the authority? Do the good, and you shall have praise from it.

Rom 13:4 For it is a servant of God to you for good. For if you practice evil, be afraid, for it does not bear the sword in vain; for it is a servant of God, a revenger for wrath on him who does evil.

Rom 13:5 Therefore you must be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

Rom 13:6 For because of this you also pay taxes. For they are God's servants, always giving attention to this very thing.

Rom 13:7 Therefore give to all their dues; to the one due tax, the tax; tribute to whom tribute is due, fear to whom fear is due, and honor to whom honor is due.

Do you know who the ruler was when this was written? Pop quiz :-)Frank

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 11:52

If we grudgingly and reluctantly follow the commands of God, then we need to look to ourselves. Jesus simply did not care about the taxes issue, He knew that the issues of our eternal state were what was truly important. The fleeting political issues of the day will not seem very important when we stand before God.....Frank

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/17 11:58

It is a mischaracterization of those here to say we are protesting the paying of taxes. No one here takes such a position.

What the Tea Parties sought to do is to send a message to our elected representatives that we don't want to pay more taxes than we have to, and that we don't want them to wastefully spend our money on things we don't approve of. Such is not a spirit of rebellion, nor if done in the right spirit is it "murmurings."

Appolus, I believe you are misreading what is going on in all of this.

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 12:04

No Kingjimmy, I don't think that I am, I am simply reading Scriptures and looking to see what they say about taxes. There are no degrees of taxes that the Scripture talks about. Jesus did not say "render unto Caesar what you consider to be reasonable and unto God what is His." What part of what Jesus said do you agree with? And the Scripture from Romans, what part do you agree or disagree with?. If you agree with what they say then the issue is finished for a Christian. If you believe that it means something different than I have put forth, I would be interested to hear your interpretations of these Scriptures. People change, attitudes change, but the Scriptures remain the same.....Frank

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/17 12:11

Bro. Frank,

You are misinterpreting what Christ said, and thus misinterpreting my stance and that of others. Nobody is questioning whether or not we should render to Caesar's what is Caesar's. We most certainly should. But being that we don't live under a dictatorship, and in a government that encourages its citizens to participate in its decisions, and to offer opinions as to what it should do, that is all we are doing.

We are simply saying, yes, we will pay taxes. But if we are allowed a legitimate voice to say what those rates will be, Jesus and the Jews were not allowed, we are, then we would be poor stewards of God's money too simply quiet our voices and allow the government to do whatever they wanted to do with God's money.

Be careful not to practice eisegesis, that is, reading one's interpretation of a passage into a Scripture. The passages you have cited thus far have only said we ARE to pay taxes, and nothing more. I appreciate your heartfelt sincerity on this issue and welcome any insights you may have. But brother, in my opinion, you are not rightly handling the Scriptures in what you have cited thus far.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/17 12:18

By the way, Jesus didn't like having to pay taxes either. :-)

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 12:46

I quoted the exact Scripture Jimmy. I added nothing to it. I did not create an argument from silence, I simply quoted Jesus and again Paul in Romans. If you have any other Scripture that you would like to quote in defence of protesting how much taxes we should pay, then I would be glad to consider those and give an opinion. Do you know how many political systems there have been since the time of Jesus? Constantly changing. I know that we would both agree that the one thing that does not change is the Scriptures, we know that heaven and earth will pass away but His word shall remain forever. So, we know what Jesus said. We know what the Holy Spirit says in Romans and we know who was in charge when it was written and we also know that the money was not spent on anything Godly as we would consider it, in fact much of it was spent persecuting Christians. That is what we know, that is what I have stated. Again, if you believe that you know something that would put a different slant on this, backed up by Scripture, I would dearly love to hear it, I truly would. All I have heard up to now is opinion, which is fine and we are all entitled to that, and we all have one, but it is Scripture that is a Lamp unto our feet, not men's opinion. Now, if you have a different interpretation on the Scriptures mentioned, or other Scriptures that would qualify Christians being involved in protests against the paying of a certain amount of taxes, then please share so that we can all see and give a comment on them.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2009/4/17 13:18

Hi appolus,

I think I speak for Jimmy and myself when I say that we both do both pay taxes, therefore, still fulfilling the command to render unto Caesar what it is Caesar's. And, we are still submitting to our government obeying its laws per Romans 13.

However, as Jimmy noted, it is nowhere forbidden in the Scriptures to peacefully seek that the government change its practices. In fact, it is in the first Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that the people have the right to petition the government for a "redress of grievances". That is exactly what the tea partys are. A petition to the government for the redress of the grievance of unjust spending habits and thus, unjust taxation. We are completely obeying our government in exercising this right that has been granted to us by the Constitution, which is the supreme civil law in the land of these United States. So, in summary, it is perfectly acceptable to petition the government. It is legal, and it is peaceful.

Secondly, the current economic system, in my understanding, is sinful. It is a breach of God's commandment not to steal. How do I come to this conclusion? Inflation. For instance, say I work and save \$10,000 and place it in a savings account. When I go to retrieve that \$10,000 in 30 years, does it have the same purchasing power that it had when I put it in? No, it doesn't. The government has overspent, and participated in inflationary practices such as bailouts, thus driving the purchasing power of our money down. It is a hidden theft from the American people.

Thus, we petition the government to redress this grievance by adopting sound economic policies, as is our Constitutional

right. And, we petition them to turn from this sinful method of stealing the earned money of the American people.

With care in Christ,
Taylor

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 13:30

Quote:

-----it is nowhere forbidden in the Scriptures to peacefully seek that the government change its practices.

Our only example of the seperateness of what Jesus taught and the lives of the First Church - being our Only example - can only be found in the New Testament.

Can you show me where one could find any example in the NT where anyone tried in any way to "change government"?

We cannot make "doctrine" adding it 'to' Scripture out of the constitution nor any other Government documents because they are constantly changing these - for one thing and will continue through Courts, Executive Orders and so forth to change them --- so where do we draw the line on defending these Original Documents or are we not to be entangled mentally at all with the things of This World?

Asking in peace Brothers. No offense intended, but my mind is on the daily news and the changes to All policy I've seen in 50 yr.s - so far and it's only speeding up.

God Bless you.

Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2009/4/17 13:48

Thanks for the response, brother.

The bottom line is, I don't have to come up with an example in the New Testament of someone who peaceably tried to change the government's practices by petition, just as I don't have to prove that someone in the New Testament wore socks. In our daily lives, we have the freedom to act within the freedom granted by the moral law of God. And, since God nowhere forbids the peaceful petition of a government, neither can man forbid it. It is a matter of Christian liberty. The burden of proof is on those who feel we are out of line to prove that it is specifically forbidden in the Scriptures to peacefully petition the government, and, in my opinion, this is something they cannot do.

No doctrine has been created. In Romans 13, we are told to obey our leaders. The writers of our Constitution specifically told us we had the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances, therefore, we are perfectly within the law of God to exercise this right. We are still obeying the government.

Being "not of this world" does not mean withdrawing from worldly affairs or not being concerned about the "kingdom of man". It means that our minds are renewed, we do not think in a worldly way, and we do not live in a worldly way. We strive to promote truth, justice, and righteousness in the world and we do so using the lawful, peaceful means we have available.

With care in Christ,
Taylor

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 14:02

I understand Brother. Thank you for your kind reply.

I suppose I'm just feeling a protective spirit over the Body.

Many are following folks like Alex Jones, etc. that are putting thoughts that are contrary to Scripture into their minds as far as "activism" goes and "rights".

It's one thing to report what one can "document" as "News" and it's totally another thing to hype folks to "activism".

I wish since the early 70's that we had had as much "activism" over Abortion and this country looking the other way over persecution of Christians in CHINA and other countries or against TORTURE.

Those are three things that I would be willing to be "digitally photographed" at any "peaceful gathering" to raise my voice Against.

I wonder if GOD will ask us what DID we protest and what DIDN'T we protest while we were on earth as Christians.

How much have we raised our voice against these nations that persecute believers?

I suppose I'm thinking of the last so many verses in Matthew 25 and weighing them against what we 'are' doing, compared to what we are 'not' doing.

I worry about what is 'on' our minds compared to what isn't.

I'll have to let this drop to each man's personal convictions.
I do not want to be a cause of division here.

In Him

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2009/4/17 14:50

If God is in control of all things, and He is allowing this "taxation" to happen, and we join others in physically "protesting" this "taxation" are we not actually "protesting" against our Lord?

And if others that we have enjoined ourselves to turn to violence, are we not also participating in that violence simply by the fact that we have chosen to identify ourselves with them?

Are we not rather commanded to pray?

Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2009/4/17 15:09

If God is in control of all things, and He is allowing this "taxation" to happen, and we join others in physically "protesting" this "taxation" are we not actually "protesting" against our Lord?

Of course God is in control of all things. However, using this kind of logic you present, we would be "protesting against our Lord" by protesting against abortion.

And if others that we have enjoined ourselves to turn to violence, are we not also participating in that violence simply by the fact that we have chosen to identify ourselves with them?

If others turn to violence, we can refrain from participating. But, as a movement in general, the tea parties were non-violent.

Are we not rather commanded to pray?

We are commanded to pray. But, we are not command to pray to the exclusion of other efforts to promote justice and righteousness in the land. Notice the command given to the Jews in exile in Jeremiah 29:7 - *But 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..* We are to pray for the land we live in, however, we are also to actively seek its welfare. We do this by promoting truth, righteousness, and justice. Or, by promoting the moral law of God.

With care in Christ,
Taylor

Re: Tea Parties, on: 2009/4/17 15:25

Quote:

-----Or, by promoting the moral law of God.

Earlier, HomeFree98 asked

Quote:

-----Do you think these tea parties are biblical and have the spirit of Christ behind them?

Quote:

-----Do you really think that the Boston Tea Party was a good thing? **It appears to be rebellion** *Emphasis mine*

Exactly. And once Christians are *seen* joining these occasions, the edge of their sword is dulled. The much-explained-by-Paul Washer *difference of culture* between the Church and the world blends easily with the haze on a sunny afternoon, and all is well with the world. No wonder the media didn't report these gatherings. The Christians who don't feel compromised by banners with a serpent saying 'don't tread on me', needn't worry about snake bite. They have shot themselves in the foot entirely purposefully (albeit mindlessly :-?). Sorry!

Dear brethren, the bigger picture is *everything*. How can we be a balm (salt) in the storm when it erupts, if we have lost our savour?

Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2009/4/17 16:19

First, we have to make a distinction between the historical Boston Tea Party and the tea parties that took place on the 15th. The Boston Tea Party involved the destruction of property that was not rightfully owned by those who destroyed it. That was wrong. There were better ways to protest. However, the tea parties on the 15th were completely peaceful and within Constitutional boundaries. I fail to see how it is a spot on someones Christian testimony to be actively engaged in the civic process of the United States.

The point still remains, the burden of proof is on those who rebuke those who attend the tea parties to prove from the Scripture that such peaceful behavior is prohibited. If that cannot be shown, it is simply a matter of Christian liberty. I'm seeing a lot of people's opinion as to what was proper Christian behavior on the 15th, however it must be shown that God forbids a peaceful petition.

With care in Christ,
Taylor

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2009/4/17 16:44

2 Corinthians 6

1We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

2(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

3Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

4But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6By pureness, by knowledge, by long suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

9As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

11O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.

12Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.

13Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.

14Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

18And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2009/4/17 16:56

Isaiah 55:8

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 17:16

Hi Taylor, you keep talking about Scriptures while ignoring the ones given. Jesus put it to rest. If you want to add something to it, then let's have it, or let's have another Scripture that would back up what you say. Perhaps Jesus did not understand the complexities of modern politics when He spoke? Or maybe a limited idea of freedom that was clarified by the constitution? Of course I am speaking with tongue in cheek, but in many ways that is what you are implying. The tea party that I saw on TV was definitely rebellious, in fact, the governor of Texas talked about seceding if they did not get their own way. Glen Beck, Sean Hannity, Rush Limbaugh and others speak only in demeaning terms of the authorities, they have nothing but contempt and anger. These are the leaders of this movement. It is rebellious and it seeks to undermine the authority of the present government. That is not what we have been called to do as Christians. Every two years the citizens of this country get to vote, mid-term and general elections. We just had a general election and the majority, knowing that President Obama would increase taxes, voted for him anyway. Now, that seems to me to be democracy in action. The majority rule (this is why you will not find this concept in Scriptures, just another worldly philosophy from a Greek called Democrates)

And so we come full circle and simply ask for a Scripture or New Testament example of Christians forming a party or aligning itself to a party to change the world? It didn't happen. I think there should be a separation of Christianity and philosophy. Philosophy's are man made, vain imaginations of men who believe that they know how to run the world successfully. Now, many philosophies are not necessarily bad, they are just not of God. The time is short, the Lord is coming back, the harvest is ripe, the workers are few. Do we really have time, as Christians, to dedicate to rallies attempting to lower taxes? Maybe some do.....Frank

PS Nothing wrong with people of the world doing this, in fact I would expect nothing less. Who, in the natural, would want to pay taxes? Something to remember though, the poorest person in the States is richer than most other people in the world. And God is the God of the whole world, He loves the world. In fact, He loves it so much that He sent His Son to die for it, while they were yet sinners. Something to bear in mind.

Re: 2 Corinthians 6, on: 2009/4/17 17:20

Amen sister.

Re: - posted by fuehrerbe21 (), on: 2009/4/17 18:11

Quote:

-----If God is in control of all things, and He is allowing this "taxation" to happen, and we join others in physically "protesting" this "taxation" are we not actually "protesting" against our Lord?

This statement has had me thinking quite a bit. In A.W. Pink's The Sovereignty of God, he talks about how when we complain about the weather, we are essentially complaining against God.

Now, when we say that God is sovereign, we mean that God is in control of everything. Nothing is out of his control. So, it then leads to the question, does God "do" evil. We would think of a tornado that destroys a town and kills many as "evil" or "bad", but with God being sovereign, I would say that it is a means for God to glorify himself. Hundreds might die, but are there any spared? Does God show his mercy on the town? Regardless, He is still just and sovereign in all He does or permits.

But then we come to the issue of "free will". When I sin, is it me making the decision for myself, or is it God making me make the decision? After all, if I really have the ability to do anything on my own and God not have control over the situation, would mean that God is not sovereign. But, what if it isn't either of the options. What if it is God permitting me to make the decision. Me, in my fallen state, will make wrong decisions. But won't God glorify himself through me even more when I am redeemed of the sins I've committed?

I would say that if we confess that God is sovereign and to complain about something means we are complaining against God, doesn't this mean that anything we ask God for is really complaining to God about God? I mean, how many of us have asked God for anything? I know I have prayed that sick would be healed. Shouldn't I rather just tell someone, "stop complaining, be thankful for what you have"? This goes against scripture. We are told in Philippians to make our requests known to God through prayer.

If God answers our prayers, AWESOME! Praise Him! If he doesn't, AWESOME! Praise Him! It doesn't make Him any less. He is still God.

Yes, as Christians we should adhere to Romans 13. God has ordained every ruler. We know that not all rulers are even God fearing people. But they are there nonetheless. God will glorify Himself through all things. The early Christians are a perfect example of this. They were persecuted and murdered for their faith. This day is coming for us, saints.

The difference between the early church and us today is that we live in a system that allows us to peacefully protest our government. We are able to be obedient to scripture but still stand up and say, "this is wrong" (no matter the issue).

I agree that Christ should be our first priority. He is all there is. Everything else is loss. But weren't the Israelites told to settle in Jeremiah? They were to plant crops, have children, build homes. They had not entered the promised land, but they still had to survive (in their case many, many generations) to get to that point. We are not to be "of the world" but we do live "in the world".

I do agree that you have to be careful when dealing with philosophies of man and scripture. At the same time, you also need to consider if your understanding of scripture is accurate. It is important to look at the context of what is written, where it was written to and then you can determine how it applies to us today.

I do know that when we all get to Heaven, we will all realise how foolish we were. But God's grace will cover all.

In Him,
Ben

PS - This was not directed at anyone specifically. This is merely me 'talking' through some of the issues that have been raised.

EDIT: An additional thought regarding the quote above - This is a site that is trying to promote Biblical Revival. Now, maybe I'm off track, but I would say that in order for revival to occur, we need reformation in the church.

Now, based on the quote above, would it be considered 'complaining' against God to desire reform within the church, or even a revival in the first place. I mean, if revival isn't occurring, God obviously has it that way for a reason. Is this then something we should not desire?

Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2009/4/17 18:14

Quote:
-----Hi Taylor, you keep talking about Scriptures while ignoring the ones given. Jesus put it to rest. If you want to add something to it, then let's have it, or let's have another Scripture that would back up what you say.

Appolus,

That is because the Scriptures that have been given have nothing to do with a peaceful petition of the government. They have to do with obeying the government's laws, which we do. Frankly, the majority of the people on this site probably think partaking in political action is "worldly", and I understand I'm in the minority here. But, as I said, no Scripture has been produced that prohibits a peaceful petition, therefore, I do not prohibit my fellow believers from partaking in them.

Quote:
-----Something to remember though, the poorest person in the States is richer than most other people in the world.

This is a good thought, and one that I have had before.

With care in Christ,
Taylor

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 20:25

Hi Taylor

Hey, we agree on something :-) I think if we expanded upon what we agree on it may tie into the main debate and put it to an end :-)

I think the argument that the Scriptures say nothing about peacefully petitioning the government is a false argument. I do not say that to demean you, I simply say it as I see it :-)
The Scriptures do not cover every subject under the sun. For example, the Scriptures do not say "Thou shalt not smoke." If the Scriptures do not specifically deny a certain practice, then we are free to do as we see fit? If a group like the tea party is run by hateful radicals like Sean Hannity and Rush Limbaugh who make their money by causing division, and then Christians join themselves to such a group, then the Scriptures that my sister mentioned earlier come into play. Why should the salt of the earth join itself to bitter fruits? If Jesus says "pay your taxes," and does not allude to "fair taxes," (which could be anything a person decided it should be) then we should simply pay them. To protest the ruling authorities may not violate the constitution, but we Christians are bound by Scriptures, not man-made laws. If man-made laws are followed and it leads us to violate clear teaching from Jesus, then we are not criminals in the eyes of the Law, we are simply following the old heresy of "antinomianism." (a flagrant disregard of God's teachings).....Frank

Re: What ruler are you reading into the scriptures? - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/4/17 20:52

I believe that I can clarify the differences on the scriptures that are being discussed here. I have a dear brother and friend from El Salvador who believes that it is wrong to participate in politics (voting, running for office, serving in government) in any way. I've tried to explain to him that the dirty political systems of Central America are very different from ours here. They have no "balance of powers" therefore, they stay poverty stricken from the greed and power abuse of the leaders.

WHAT MAKES AMERICA DIFFERENT?

Brother APPOLUS, if you are a citizen of the United States of America, you may very well read Mark 12:17 as: "Render to APPOLUS the things that are APPOLUS", and to God the things that are God's."

In reading the scripture, each one of us (some in different countries) realize that it is not Caesar that we are currently dealing with. We have to put another name there, because we don't have Caesar here today. You are obviously replacing the word Caesar with "the United States Government".

YOU are a very important part of the United States government! You are a very important part of the law making part of the government that you pay taxes to.

If you are a citizen of this country you have the heavy responsibility of making the decisions here!

To put it more simply: Suppose Appolus, KrispyKrittr, and KingJimmy were the ONLY 3 citizens of this country, and KingJimmy were the elected enforcer of the laws. As the enforcer, KingJimmy could only enforce the laws that the three of you made. If you, Appolus (in effect 1/3 king) decide to shut your mouth and have no input in laws being made, then KrispyKrittr, and KingJimmy will be making all of the laws for you to live by, and you will go on simply submitting to their laws. On the other hand, if you exercise your noble responsibility and voice your thoughts and vote, you can change the laws that you have to live by.

I am not trying to rewrite, nor tamper with God's sacred word here, but we HAVE TO ask: "who is the ruler here?" and we have to put his name in that place in the scripture in order to obey it. Whether we shirk our responsibility as rulers in this country or not, WE ARE WHAT WE ARE, because the laws of our government have made us such:

Romans 13:3 For APPOLUS is not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For APPOLUS is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for APPOLUS is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: APPOLUS is God's minister, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

We can point our fingers and talk about all of the bad things that "our government" is doing, but the guilt falls equally on us. We have been given specific guidelines about how we are to influence the laws of our land (as has been stated in other posts on this thread).

If Appolus remains silent, then KrispyKrittr, and KingJimmy will make the rules. KingJimmy will enforce them, but we will all live by them. Although we are many millions more than just the three . . . this is how it is. IN REALITY, there are ONLY FOUR simple groups ruling this country:

Real Christians who remain silent.

Real Christians who exercise their noble responsibilities,

Sinners who remain silent, and

Sinners who exercise their noble responsibilities.

Those who remain silent are in full authority to participate in governing this country, but they choose not to exercise that authority . . . like a parent who has full authority to discipline his child, but chooses not to . . . to the ruin of the child.

We are at a pivotal moment in history with this government, however. If we act on our citizen noble responsibilities, we

might be able to keep it from becoming a government ruled by a dictator like Ceasar. If we remain silentbut how in all good conscience can we do so?

Re: EXAMPLE - CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT . . . - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/4/17 21:09

Quote:

-----Can you show me where one could find any example in the NT where anyone tried in any way to "change government"?

Jesus in no way condemned this widow woman who exercised her privilege to petition the government. He used her as an example of DOING SOMETHING GOOD:

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:
3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.
4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;
5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.
6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.
7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?
8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?
?

I would think that those who don't believe in peacefully petitioning the government could not in all good conscience hire a lawyer to defend their innocence if they were falsely accused of a crime . . . or if (may it NEVER happen), they are betrayed by a spouse and desire custody of their children.

Re: NOW LET ME STATE MY DEEPEST BELIEFS ON THIS MATTER . . . - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/4/17 21:20

If we are spending more time peacefully petitioning our government than we are aggressively agonizingly petitioning our Heavenly Father, we are actively demonstrating which government we have more faith in.

Personally, I feel so lacking in time spent in prayer before God's throne for the horrible condition of the world that we live in . . . I have very little time for political activity. I hope that I will not be counted an unwise steward of my time when I give account for my life before God.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/17 21:22

Bro Frank,

I'm sorry, I don't understand your logic. It simply does not make sense to me. Perhaps I have misunderstood you, but the way I read your post is that you say it is ok for us as Christians to vote, but it is not ok for us to petition the government and give them our opinion on a matter? Outside of the "official" nature of voting, in essence, how are the two any different? Both involve participation in the political arena. Both are means of giving the government one's opinion on things. If you are grieved over whoever is in office now, you can cast your lot for somebody else. How is this different than being grieved over decisions being made by our elected officials, and telling them what your lot is cast for?

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 21:40

Hi Jimmy, my logic is very simple. Jesus and the Scriptures specifically teach us about taxes. If you are not following His teachings, you are violating His teachings. I am not sure that I can state it any simpler than that. As for voting, that is another matter and another thread. I have voiced my opinion on that before :-). Your bro :-). Frank

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 21:44

Hey Lordoitagain, way too convoluted for me. The Scriptures are simple enough for all to understand. Whether it is a puppet King like Herod, a Caesar like Nero, a Prime Minister like Brown or a President like Obama, they are the ruling authorities. You can make complicated arguments about how democracy works (and I suppose you know that we do not have true Democracy here, we have first past the post and an electoral college) but it does not change the teachings of Jesus who knew men's greedy hearts and was not in the slightest bit interested in the subject. As I said before, when we stand before God, we will not be talking politics or policies :-).Frank

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 21:47

God raises and lowers our secular leaders. This is clear. Jesus said pay taxes. This is clear.

The question put to Jesus concerning taxes was not 'should we pay Caesar' it was 'should we pay taxes'. Caesar was just the ruling authority at the time. The issue was taxes, not locale, not one ruler. The Jews didn't want to pay a ruling authority that was not of God, but tithes to them were just fine. Today we pay a ruling authority that is not governed exclusively by God's word in Christ. I see no difference here.

The original tea party protested taxes owed to what we called a MOTHER COUNTRY that thought they owned us (and at the time did). The very fact that we came here to escape other various oppressions is evident that freedom was not inherent. It was not money we owed to ourselves for the general function as a sovereign nation like today. Let's get some perspective here. America was being born just by simple geographical displacement of an oppressed people. Otherwise there would be no reason to leave England to begin with. We are not owned by an English Monarchy any longer.

And unlike then, we have taxation with representation in the form of what we call THE VOTE. Majority is the rule here despite whether or not you agree with the leadership that was elected to office. The fact is that both parties have used federal gov't to produce their own agenda. Both parties have expanded federal government to gain ideological clout for the implementation of their own perspective in terms of what gov't should look like.

I find it highly hypocritical for people who tout and condone STATE RIGHTS to then invoke the federal government as a mechanism to make abortion and gay marriage rights illegal among ALL STATES. If anyone wants STATE RIGHTS to be the sovereign mechanism for the rule of law in separation from federal government then they should not complain if abortion, drugs, prostitution, gun control, and the like are the adoption of many states in the union. That means that those in neighboring states who oppose abortion, drug legalization, prostitution, gambling and the like should not complain if people cross the state border to engage in these activities and bring such things as drugs back. Be careful what you ask for here because many states have Christian and non-Christians living there. If we want moral and religious segregation by state then by all means we should do it. But as far as this being the solution to our nation's ills is a bit naive. It's a fleshly solution to a sin problem that only Christ Himself, through A RIGHTEOUS AND PRAYERFUL CHURCH, can influence.

I wonder how many millions or even billions of good hardworking taxpayer dollars have been bilked by the prosperity Gospel mongers. Don't think for one second that a coniving televangelist isn't a type of church tax collector. As we speak TBN is having their multi annual pledge drive that touts a 'special time' to sow a 'special seed'. These are the same people who take advantage of America's tax loophole to keep their profits. Separation of Church and State is just fine with the TBN preachers when it comes to mammon, but not when it comes to morality. They want it both ways and it doesn't take an IQ of 150 or anyone unsaved to figure this out.

As Christians we have to be against abortion, gay marriage, and all immorality that goes against God's word. But this is summed up in Christ Himself, not in the political arena, not in ideological perspective, and not in the subjective research and subsequent conclusion of our Constitution.

If we Christians were doing our Biblical mandate government welfare wouldn't be necessary. If we have a purpose beyond ourselves, BY FAITH, then giving and taxation shouldn't be such a worrisome thing. God knows what He's doing here, this much I know. So to handwring over public policy governed by the ruling majority elected by the majority is not what I lose sleep over.

Again, millions and millions of dollars given by many well meaning Christians have gone to a few greedy preachers who I caught all the way to the bank. There's no trickle down effect here. Based on their own theology, it would be more profitable for televangelists to sow, sow, sow, then sow some more to gain a financial blessing. Instead, the lay people sow and

d they receive. Then they hoard and misspend good hearted giving. Or they sow a small bit only for their own image as a ruse to make it look like they are helping the cause of others. In this sense they are no different than our government.

A secular government in any country no matter what the philosophy is not held to a biblical mandate. So why are so many outraged by any of this? Yet so many are quick (not necessarily here on this forum) to defend the financial activities of a so called 'non profit' church.

Our own house needs cleansed, judgment begins here. But we're so obsessed with the secular house of gov't that we are baited into thinking that the CONSTITUTION holds more weight than GOD'S OWN WORD.

This is the sad reality among many Christian's today.

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 21:52

Quote.....

"Our own house needs cleansed, judgment begins here. But we're so obsessed with the secular house of gov't that we are baited into thinking that the CONSTITUTION holds more weight than GOD'S OWN WORD.

This is the sad reality among many Christian's today."

Amen brother.....Frank

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/17 21:58

Well, I think this thread has just about run its course. I think I've said much of what I hoped to say on the topic (though originally, I was just hoping to post my pics from the event, not start a discussion).

Though it has been fruitful discussion I believe, I feel a little saddened that this topic took off much more than a little thread I posted on the resurrection of Jesus Christ a few days prior. I'm not big into politics and don't get too caught up in them. Personally, I absorb most of my time thinking on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and prefer to do things to further the gospel. Because we are "in this world" politics is something we as Christians must deal with. Let us never become more passionate and interested in the world and its workings over that of the workings of God, and the amazing grace that is available to all of us who believe.

Re: , on: 2009/4/17 22:03

Quote...

"Let us never become more passionate and interested in the world and its workings over that of the workings of God, and the amazing grace that is available to all of us who believe."

Now brother, I can definitely say amen to that.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiiss (), on: 2009/4/18 1:07

Just so you know...

The recent "tea parties" were not a group of Americans voicing an opposition to taxes, but a group of Americans who are opposed to *increased* taxes and taxes spent for questionable ideals (like US funding for abortions in foreign lands).

This nation is very different than Caesar's Rome. Rome was an Empire where Caesar sat as the King. The United States has no king. It has a government "*of the people, for the people and by the people*" -- a government of CONSENT. If you sift through the writings of the founders of the nation, this "consent" was a very central to the founder's idea of government.

nment. There was no longer a "divine right of kings" or a class of nobles. Rather, the regular people could actually serve as governors, senators, representatives, judges and presidents -- elected by peers.

We certainly have a Scriptural mandate to pay our taxes. However, this nation still gives us the opportunity to voice our concern in any issues. The concern of many is that the newly elected government from an ideology that supposedly protects personal liberty is now labeling ministers as potential terrorists for publicly voicing opposition to the new administration's agenda. While we should expect the people of this world to oppose the causes of righteousness (John the Baptist was beheaded, after all, for pointing out Herod's sinful marriage), but we should not expect a nation of consent (of elected fellow citizens in this temporary country) to mock and ridicule those with whom they disagree.

I didn't attend one of the "tea parties." In fact, I had not even HEARD of the tea party until the day they began. The first headline that I read was from CNN and MSNBC reporters actually mocking the rallies. They called it a "hate" rally. One television personality even ignorantly called it a "racist" event. One television reporter even noted all of the "Christians" at the rally and equated them as "far right wing extremists" because of the Bible verses on their posters and shirts.

What a time that we live in! We live in a day when the unrighteous boldly parade their SIN and then point to the righteous as "evil!" In this day and age, Isaiah 5:20 is becoming so real.

We are ripe for a revival.

:-)

Re: , on: 2009/4/18 1:37

Hi Chrisssssss, check out the comments. We have been through the whole thing. Not sure that there is much more to add. I think if you are checking the replies, look for the one's that talk about Christians and non-Christians joining together for common purposes.....Frank

Re: , on: 2009/4/18 1:48

Brother Jimmy - sure hope you know we look forward to your next sermon-type thread. Keep 'em coming Brother - Bless GOD - they sure have that freshly squeezed olive oil savor and we've been honored to go through this press with you. Amen Brother!!

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2009/4/18 3:29

Hi Frank...

Quote:

appolus wrote:

Hi Chrisssssss, check out the comments. We have been through the whole thing. Not sure that there is much more to add. I think if you are checking the replies, look for the one's that talk about Christians and non-Christians joining together for common purposes.....Frank

Yes, I read many of them, and my comments were written and saved via MS Word. I didn't have time to post them until this evening. I will make sure to catch up on what everyone wrote in this thread.

Still, these were my comments and feelings that I shared. I apologize if they are repetitive with what you or others may have written.

The Lord bless you!

Re: , on: 2009/4/18 10:22

Hi Chris, I think you will find the thread interesting. Obviously there is a difference of opinion in regard to the nature of participation in certain events and whether they violate Scripture. It was a good discussion and I think for the most part was civil and courteous. Always the enemy roams about seeking to divide and conquer and destroy, especially in the realm of that most worldly of pursuits, politics :-).brother Frank

Re: , on: 2009/4/18 21:05

"This nation is very different than Caesar's Rome. Rome was an Empire where Caesar sat as the King. The United States has no king. It has a government "of the people, for the people and by the people" -- a government of CONSENT. If you sift through the writings of the founders of the nation, this "consent" was a very central to the founder's idea of government. There was no longer a "divine right of kings" or a class of nobles. Rather, the regular people could actually serve as governors, senators, representatives, judges and presidents -- elected by peers." Chrrrrriss

If the Tea Parties weren't voicing their opposition to taxes then they should not have called it a 'tea party' or linked it to our historic event. The original Tea Party opposed taxation without representation. They were not represented in any way to the taxes England imposed. The taxes were to England for England. Again, we have representation in the form of a vote in this nation. And you're correct, neither England NOR Rome had this form of government. I'm not against voicing the way our gov't chooses to spend tax revenue. The First Amendment guarantees dissension in this manner. BUT many stand against the taxation process as not being represented in general in these movements. There is a difference between being taxed without representation and just simply being taxed. Our vote is our representation. So to say one doesn't have a voice is not an excuse in this country. The voting booth is the voice for one's choice to choose our leaders.

As far as the gov't labeling some as 'extremists' for their Biblical views or ideology, this is nothing new in history. The anti-war folks were labelled this by gov't, what's that to me??? It happens. And Jesus himself was labelled an extremist. I don't think He lost sleep over this, nor do I.

When it comes right down to it, the only personal liberty we have doesn't come from gov't but from God. What liberty did Jesus have when handed over to Pilot? Yet when Pilot assumed that Christ's liberty or death was within his power, Jesus quickly set the record straight.. 'you have no power over Me except what has been given you by My Father'. Jesus never took His eye off His heavenly mandate. He stayed out of the political fray and when baited by the Jews concerning taxes He did not indulge in the Jews hatred of the Roman gov't. Instead He preached against sin, selfishness, hypocrisy, and legalistic righteousness.

In this day and age even the so called righteous parade their sin, and think it's just fine. I would expect the unrighteous not to know better. Before I was saved I had no problem with divorce or premarital relations. The Holy Spirit convicted me, not the gov't or a mega church. Yet we're shocked by the behavior of such. The Bible says sin will continue, it says love will wax cold, it says they will be a great falling away. Sodom, Babylon, and Egypt were no different than the unrighteous here today. This isn't a news flash. God was there then and He's here now. But when the so called Church looks just like the world, it's more leverage and fodder for the the unrighteous to parade in boldness. This should be of more concern.

I could care less how the media or gov't labels me. In light of the God I serve who are they to me??? If I take their bait, it only serves as a distraction that Christ Himself clearly avoided. If someone calls me 'extreme' it's only a badge of honor that says I'm looking more like Christ.

We are ripe for revival, but the Church will never achieve it in fleshly protests. Revival isn't about gov't, parading sinners, or even the Church. It's about Christ. How quickly the media and gov't distracts us into defending our personal liberties and constitutional rights. How quickly we lash back out of fear of oppression via secular labels. My citizenship is not of this world or this country, it's born of God through His Son. I won't take their bait nor will I defend a worldly oriented American church that has thought it could buy and influence morality through gov't in the political arena.

The voice of the remnant, the true Church, is small and insignificant in terms of political influence. I want my voice to be small in protest and loud in the prayer closet. In order for God to increase we must decrease. I don't see any decrease in a monetarily rich Church who has a loud voice but little Godly substance. The gov't has no power over me other than what God has given them. And if God gives them the power and influence to label me an extremist for being a follower of my Savior.....I say hallelujia!!!!!!

Re: , on: 2009/4/18 21:54

Cc...writes...

"We are ripe for revival, but the Church will never achieve it in fleshly protests. Revival isn't about gov't, parading sinners, or even the Church. It's about Christ. How quickly the media and gov't distracts us into defending our personal liberties and constitutional rights. How quickly we lash back out of fear of oppression via secular labels. My citizenship is not of this world or this country, it's born of God through His Son. I won't take their bait nor will I defend a worldly oriented American church that has thought it could buy and influence morality through gov't in the political arena."

I say amen to you brother, and amen. Time and time again Christians are drawn into the arena of the world and not just drawn in, they throw themselves in with gusto. Today we had an International Prayer conference with brothers and sisters from the States and from Britain. We were small in number yet rich in the Spirit of God. People will flock to rallies where self-interests are represented and fear and paranoia are the order of the day, I wish people would flock to prayer meetings and petition the Lord our most High God who is High and lifted up. My eyes have seen the King and He is glorious and the things of this world are dim and of brass. Our lives are fleeting, and we are to be stewards of our time here on earth. Do we spend our time seeking His presence? Do we spend our time about our Father's business? Do we spend our time bringing peace where there is strife. Are we peacemakers are we children of the living God. Where there is hatred and despair and anxiousness, do we tell people by our words and actions to be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication and thanksgiving to make our requests known to the living God? I thank you Lord that even if I be the poorest person in the United States that I will go to bed this evening with a full belly and a roof over my head. I thank you Lord that I have clothes on my back. I thank you most of all that I was taken from the gutters of life and invited to sit down at the banqueting table of my Lord and that His banner over me is love. Oh Lord may not a single grumble ever be heard to fall from my lips. May these lips be used only to praise the living God. And even after I am there ten thousand years I know that I know that I will still be praising you my Heavenly Father because of the Lord Jesus Christ making a way where there was no way. As I contemplate on everything that is good, everything that is wholesome, everything that is Holy, praise begins to arise in my spirit until it meets your Spirit and I am engulfed in thankfulness. I remember that even in the darkest dungeon, my brother Paul did not grumble, but sang praises to the living God and the whole prison shook and the captives found liberty. None of my heroes defended themselves but cried out with love for a world that you loved so much "forgive them Father for they know not what they do." Oh let this Spirit break out upon that which calls itself the church and may it replace petty fears and paranoia and insecurity, knowing that the steps of a righteous man and woman is ordered of God and that we rest secured in the righteous outstretched hand of the Living God. And in this place I sleep secure in the knowledge Lord that it is you that is in control. Praise your Holy name, and may every knee bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God the Father.....Frank

Re: - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/4/18 23:34

Quote:

-----Today we had an International Prayer conference with brothers and sisters from the States and from Britain. We were small in number yet rich in the Spirit of God. People will flock to rallies where self-interests are represented and fear and paranoia are the order of the day, I wish people would flock to prayer meetings and petition the Lord our most High God who is High and lifted up.

Who had an International Prayer Conference? And where? Was it announced, or did I miss the announcement?

You are SO RIGHT brother that Christians can be gathered together so quickly for petitioning the Government, but generally will not gather together to petition the Creator of the universe!!!

I like the confidence that Brother Kieth Daniel from South Africa spoke with regarding this nation and its problems in his (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/myvideo/photo.php?lid829>) Warning to America . . . He said something like "you could have it all turned around in a matter of a couple of months if you would just pray . . ."

The "tea parties" were well announced in every place, and well attended.

How did such an effort get rallied in every town? Who was the trumpet blaster that rallied the concerned people together?

Can such a thing be done as was described in Brother Orr's
(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid18527&commentViewitemComments>) The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening where an appeal goes out for all concerned Christians to meet every first Monday for prayer?

Every Saturday our mission has an "international" prayer meeting (Mexicans and Americans - usually only 5 or 6 of us there). Recently I discussed with the pastor of the West Monroe Church of God my desires for prayer meetings, so every first Friday of each month, two hispanic churches along with that American church will be meeting there for prayer. If you are in Northeast LA near West Monroe, you are welcomed to join us in petitioning God for a manifestation of His glory in convicting sinners of their sin, and awakening lives to the glory of God.

Who could sound such an alarm? Who could rally the troops? Shall we just assume Christians don't want to come together to petition God? Has anyone made the announcement or the invitation?

Re: , on: 2009/4/19 0:38

Quote

"Who had an International Prayer Conference? And where? Was it announced, or did I miss the announcement?"

We did, right here, through SI, on the phone and on skype. Where was it announced? Right here under "announcements". :)

Its now every Saturday, come join us. We are also praying for revival every Tuesday night, come join us. All you need is a phone or a computer :)

Details below. Both prayer meetings are announced right here on SI every Tuesday and now, every Saturday.....br
other Frank

European/International Prayer Call is held each week @ 6:00 GMT.

The call is to network intercessors in Europe and Internationally to intercede for Revival in the sleeping Church especially in the UK.

Currently the call is through a telephone service called powownow and SKYPE.

UK Instructions.

Call Phone: 0870 22 333 33, access pin = 059089

To connect via skype, add hquest7

International Instructions.

For a list of International Access numbers, please contact hquest@hotmail.co.uk

To connect via skype, add hquest7

United States Instructions.

Call Phone: 712-432-2888, or 641-715-3715, access pin = 059089.

To connect via skype, call/text me on skype id, merle.weaver

Re: - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/4/19 1:02

THANKS!

We have church services every Tuesday night, and prayer meetings on Saturday nights. There have been times when (if I didn't have people to take home) I have listened in some on the conference call prayer meeting after our services.

When you wrote "International Prayer Conference" I thought you were referring to people being "with one accord in one place" which is of course what the Revival Conference accomplishes for those who can go.

However it happens, THANK GOD for the prayers of the saints! Those prayers are so precious to God that they are being kept in special vials near His throne Rev 5:8.

Re: Tea Party's, on: 2009/4/19 5:02

Hello all,

This thread **is** very thought-provoking. A couple of things caught my eye in ccriders post:

Quote:
-----Again, we have representation in the form of a vote in this nation. And you're correct, neither England NOR Rome had this form of government.

Not sure about Rome's representation of the common people, but England most definitely did have Commons representation. In fact, by that time, the monarchy was more dependent on Parliament for its power, than compared with 150 years previously - probably adding to America's formal sense of injustice. (Not wishing to throw the thread off course, the mindset which thought it okay to govern America without representation was the same as that which took over the land from its original inhabitants, even threatening them with death in some places, if they didn't accept Christ. It really does show that top-down government is not God's highest order. He wants man governed by the Holy Spirit from within his heart.)

Quote:
-----He stayed out of the political fray and when baited by the Jews concerning taxes He did not indulge in the Jews hatred of the Roman gov't.

If the Jews hated taxes to Rome, I don't think they were looking for Jesus to confirm that hatred, but to find out if they could trip Him up by getting Him to say that He didn't want to pay taxes to Rome - because by the time they asked Him, they had made up their minds to find a way to kill Him. They wanted Him in trouble with the authorities.

Remember... John 19:15 But they cried out, Away with , away with , crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar?

Then there is also this event, which plays straight back into the earlier substance of this thread:

Matthew 17

24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? 25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? 26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. 27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend thee, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/19 6:21

It should be noted for historical context the main reason the Jews were troubled over paying taxes was because the coinage in that day had Caesar's image on it. Being that Caesar was treated literally as being a god, the coinage was looked at by the Jews as idolatrous in nature. This, also in part, is why the money changers existed in the temple. The Jews wanted any money given to the temple treasury to be free from idolatrous contamination. Thus, the money changers would exchange currency for these purposes.

Just some further thoughts :-)

Re: Classic Sermon Index Rabbit Trail, on: 2009/4/19 9:22

This thread was started by someone who was just sharing some pictures from a Tea Party in his area. That's it, just sharing pictures; no comments, no opinion...just some nice pictures.

That original post was followed up by some back and forth conversation about other local Tea Party's that took place in other parts of the country. Also, someone mentioned that he was proud of his country and his service to this country because he sees Americans taking advantage of the liberties for which he fought and for which others have fought and sacrificed their lives. It was nice.

There was no mention of revival coming through a Tea Party.

There was no mention of forsaking prayer and using the political arena to advance the Kingdom of God.

There was no call for Christians to attend Tea Parties.

Yet, in classic Sermon Index fashion, the conversation turned and became a debate as to whether or not Tea Parties were biblical.

Was this even necessary?

Michael

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/4/19 9:36

Perhaps it was a little much to get into some of the things we did. My original intent was just to simply share pictures of the event because I noticed that the event wasn't posted in the News items. But, I'm never opposed to spontaneous discussions starting up over anything. It is my belief that theology is life and life is theology.

If a possible edifying theological discussion can occur as a result of just taking some pictures, then I'm good with that. How's the saying go? A picture is worth a 1,000 words. I'm ok with that :-). Somebody I know through work was impressed with some of the photos I took, and wants to use one or two of them for an article he plans on writing. It wasn't my intent to ever be "published" by somebody else, but it looks like that just might happen as well. Which is pretty cool in my opinion, as I do have an admiration for photography as an art and as a form of journalism. I've read a little on the subject, and have a pretty good quality digital camera, a Canon PowerShot is5. It's not quite the DSLR level of camera, but it isn't half bad either.

King Jimmy, on: 2009/4/19 10:44

here's the really sad part of the whole thing:

Quote:
-----I feel a little saddened that this topic took off much more than a little thread I posted on the resurrection of Jesus Christ a few days prior.

That's sad, where are our priorities set, where are our eyes focused?

Re: , on: 2009/4/19 10:50

Mahoney writes....

"This thread was started by someone who was just sharing some pictures from a Tea Party in his area. That's it, just sharing pictures; no comments, no opinion...just some nice pictures.

That original post was followed up by some back and forth conversation about other local Tea Party's that took place in other parts of the country. Also, someone mentioned that he was proud of his country and his service to this country because he sees Americans taking advantage of the liberties for which he fought and for which others have fought and sacrificed their lives. It was nice."

If anyone wants to read the first 8 posts, just click on "oldest first," in the little box. There you will hear about media bias and sodomites.

I think the point is that this is a forum, a Christian forum. so if you post something, it could very well be challenged, and frequently is. I think the real challenge is being able to question a premise without attacking anyone's personal character. Most of the people on SI do that very well. That is why I enjoy SI, different opinions from people who love God and, most especially, love His people. Love will always come first. In 1st John we are told that you will "know them by their love for one another."Frank

Re: King Jimmy - posted by crsschk (), on: 2009/4/19 12:19

Had taken down a whole reply earlier ...

There is really nothing wrong with this - From the inception to the outcome. It is expected and encouraged that some discussion would ensue and it has been handled maturely.

Not to slight anyone here just some perspective and observance. I do think *where the scriptures are silent* comes very much into play and if I may, to ponder the quote that is my signature at bottom.

Am pretty much unbiased and ambivalent to the matter - We are still fortunate to be afforded the rights we do have, where others do not. That including the right to do what we are doing just here - Giving our opinions.

I also wonder at the trade offs we can give to certain subject matter and force the issue in a manner of *We ought to be doing _____* thus and so. If it's not your ... cup of tea (pun intended), again reference the quote mentioned below.

What also came to mind is how, if we are to use the negative connotations and applications of what is warranted/disallowed on this subject matter ... how does the same approach apply to say the abolishment of slavery? Did we not have some very good ministers throw their weight behind this? The civil rights movement ... Careful how I broach this, the emphasis is on *approach* and deriving scripture to support the stance(s)- Not the apple to oranges comparisons of subject matter.

Interestingly, even KJ being the originator, innocently enough, showed some sadness that this took off as it did while a post on the resurrection of the Lord did not. I am not sure this is a very good comparison however. It *may* indeed be for some a challenge of their priorities -loyalties but in general a larger response to a current event shouldn't be surprising. In fact I recall the post well enough, some things are stated so well they are difficult to respond to ... Just as well, I did happen upon something related yesterday that was on mind to add to it after all.

Another perspective is just one of the grass roots mentality that at least shows some life blood in organizing the ... fed-up-ness to coin a phrase, that just didn't bubble up out of thin air. This has its origins in 'protest' going back to the bailout's even of last year. Will skirt the more political aspects of it all but would appeal to what is largely a sort of silent ... minority(?) of the hardworking folks that keep this economy rolling on day in and day out. Rarely do we hear from them in this sort of fashion, most keep to themselves and go about their work. Others who are now in the unfortunate position of being out of work, what do they do, by and large ...? Sit and wallow? I would suppose the greater majority of even those who w

ere protesting last week will be hard at work this week seeking *work* if they are out of it or hard at work as is the norm that are employed. Of course the abuses and those who will expect the Gov. to 'take care of them' but I do not believe half as much of the rhetoric is actual nor factual that Americans are not some of the most industrious, innovative and hard working people on the planet. Patriotic? Or just ... truth? There used to be something known as the "Protestant work ethic" it may lay dormant in the vernacular but it is still in the water and the genes even if and by assimilation.

The whole realm of 'nominal' believers is fodder for another thread, but my observance is still that the extremities get the attention and where 'we' of a serious Christian mind tend to see what we want to see and often propose "God's judgment" upon "America" for the antics of the same styled 'protester's' who are better organized and are constantly more vocal for getting their peculiar 'rights' assessed upon everyone. Even when they are just a fraction of the population. It is difficult not to recall;

Gen 18:25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

My premise is that the picture is skewered, not that we have an overwhelming abundance of righteous Christians inhabiting the country. Just some, just enough perhaps. I felt compelled to offer this as it came my way elsewhere and does tie into a lot of the 'air' that is being fostered of "Judgment" that is what we are either experiencing or expecting.

As an aside to the recent 'complaint' vocalized in this situation, which I find no problem with, in fact it does throw a bit of argument on the idea that Americans are going to just lay down and take the proposed/suggested/speculative idea of 'socialism' without a fight.

Thankful. Thankful to live here. Thankful everyday for all the blessings we have, it is often guilt inducing to reflect that while I have so much in the simplest of things others do not even have shoes to wear on their feet - Or food, or shelter, or any of the myriad of things we so often take for granted.

In a nut shell, we are predominantly a nation of plumbers - we put in the plumbing and fix the leaks - You just rarely get to hear from them.

Feel like if I don't balance this out it may get misconstrued. None of this diminishes the atrocities of abortion or the moral bankruptcy that is evident - It is not one side being pumped up over the other- Only to lend some perspective to it all. I think I have just about had it with the misconstruing of data/facts/information to support things that have no basis in truth. It is very much the reason for the post on gullibility and critical thinking and the challenging of our many, many 'prophets' in whatever guise of delusion they labor under. It's just not right to mislead, misconstrue - It goes to the very heart of what we as Christians are supposed to *be* and far over what we pontificate on.

Off on a tangent I suppose and just some random food for thought.

One last piece of curiosity, one section of scripture that has challenged me for years and years and that I would offer to what this subject matter boils down to, namely money. Just to let it stand alone, without comment, but if it is not applicable in principle if not beyond;

Luk 16:8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

I do intend to mean the whole context of this.

Re: , on: 2009/4/19 15:09

crsschk writes.....

"Thankful. Thankful to live here. Thankful everyday for all the blessings we have, it is often guilt inducing to reflect that while I have so much in the simplest of things others do not even have shoes to wear on their feet - Or food, or shelter, or any of the myriad of things we so often take for granted."

Amen brother.....Frank

PS...Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council preached this morning at the church I attend, International House of

Prayer. It was a good, well balanced sermon, probably online.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2009/4/19 15:36

I can see both sides of this discussion, and on one hand we are citizens of another kingdom so our faith is not in any political system but on the other hand, we are called to be salt and light in this world and to speak out against unrighteousness and injustice.

We are blessed to be connected with intercessors that pray for government. We have seen a wonderful change in the state of Louisiana. as a result of the prayers of the saints. We now have a governor that is born again that put into effect major ethics reforms within the state. Louisiana was once known for its corrupt leaders and politicians, but is now being recognized for the many changes that are taking place under the current administration.

There are prayer meetings that take place in the state capitol, and there are members of both the state house and senate that attend some of the meetings that are being held throughout the state.

Tony Perkins is from Louisiana, and he has sent out an important prayer request to the intercessors throughout the nation.

Dear Friends,

I received a special request from Tony today, asking that I contact you to help enlist the nation's intercessors to make this an urgent prayer focus. Here is Tony's note:

Friends,

While I am passionate about our mission to advance faith, family and freedom, I am experiencing a deep stirring within my spirit over the Sebelius nomination that does not come often. I think this nomination will move our nation toward yet another immoral milestone. We've had pro-abortion politicians and cabinet members who have had no regard for the unborn before, but Sebelius takes it to a new level. This is a woman who has literally advanced, if not built, her political career with blood money, money that came directly from George Tiller's abortion clinic.

What makes this different from almost every other pro-abortion politician is that her alliance with the abortion industry is with the darkest side of abortion. George Tiller is a late term abortionist that specializes in destroying the lives of babies in the second and third trimesters. These are healthy babies, most of whom could actually survive outside the womb, at the point he performs his destructive acts.

It is clear why Sebelius initially tried to hide this direct connection to Tiller's clinic when she failed to report this information to the U.S. Senate. This connection to Tiller is even outside the mainstream of the Democratic Party. This is the second time Sebelius' integrity has been called into question, the first time when it was revealed that she had not paid all of her taxes.

Now that her ties with the darkest side of the abortion industry are known, if she is successful in her bid to head up HHS, the largest federal agency, which oversees the nation's health care system, it will send a very clear message to politicians - you can align yourself with the abortion industry without personal or political consequence.

This sets a new level that our nation will have sunken to.

We need to pray specifically that her nomination will be aborted - that either she or the Obama Administration will withdraw her name or the Senate will refuse to confirm her.

Right now neither looks possible, but we know that with God all things are possible.

Prayer Points:

Pray for Senator Sam Brownback, who is presently supporting Sebelius for political purposes, will have a change of heart and announce his opposition to her nomination.

Pray for the resources we need for FRC to educate the public on just how radical Sebelius' alliances with the abortion industry really are.

Pray that Senators will begin to question the integrity of Sebelius and her alliance.

Thank you

Tony

Please hear Tony's heart. Thank you for any help you can give him to reach God's intercessors across America

Tony will be on the ground in Kansas for the next two days, praying, preaching and working to draw national attention to this sordid matter.

Please be in earnest intercession for Tony during the next 36 hours. The spiritual principalities and strong holds related to abortion are strong. Tony and everyone you know who is involved in this sphere has encountered strong spiritual opposition when confronting these powers. Pray for God's favor as Tony speaks - for receptive ears - for protection for Tony and his family - and for the FRC staff on the ground with him. Pray that there will be a major breakthrough.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me (see contact info. below).

God bless,

Pierre Bynum

P.S. The attached Prayer Alert went to our prayer team on Friday. Please feel free to pass this on to your trusted prayer warriors. The attached Alert is posted on the Web at <http://www.frc.org/prayer-team/urgent-prayer-alert---special-prayer-needed---kathleen-sebelius>.

Rev. Pierre Bynum
Chaplain & National Prayer Director
Regional Director for Church Ministries

Re: Tea Party's - posted by BenBrockway, on: 2009/4/19 16:02

King Jimmy,

Great pics! Thanks for sharing them! There was nearly 2000 that showed up here in Colorado Springs.

All I can say to what feel is pure ignorance on this thread is that, although I did not vote for Obama, he is now employed by me. Since he is my employee, I have the freedom and authority by the governance of Scripture and United States law, to voice my concerns.

To be told that I or anyone else has no Scriptural backing to do so is living in futility.

Voicing my concern to my employees - Pres. Obama and the whole government, does not, in the slightest, diminish my walk with Christ.

Re: , on: 2009/4/19 16:04

Hi abideinhim

I was at church this morning and Tony did not mention Sebelius or that particular issue. I believe that his sermon went straight to the heart of the real problems in America, the heart of the people, starting with the Church. He identified the church as the main problem and His Scripture was....

2Ch 7:14 if My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

He stated that no matter who is elected in the coming years or decades, it will not bring the change that is required. As soon as they post the sermon on the IHOP site, I will post it here. Or you can look for it yourself. His message is very much

h the message that you will hear on SI and at the revival conferences.....Frank

Re: Tea Party's - posted by BenBrockway, on: 2009/4/19 16:09

crsschk - great points! I think you were right on!

:-D

Re: , on: 2009/4/19 16:15

"If the Jews hated taxes to Rome, I don't think they were looking for Jesus to confirm that hatred, but to find out if they could trip Him up by getting Him to say that He didn't want to pay taxes to Rome - because by the time they asked Him, they had made up their minds to find a way to kill Him. They wanted Him in trouble with the authorities." Alive to God

I have to agree with you here. Your version of this is probably the more accurate in terms of the motivation of the Jews. But in general the Jews did not want to be dominated by an ungodly Government. I don't think Jesus said what He said just as a clever counterpoint to the Jewish leadership. He was still speaking on behalf of His Father as was the case in everything He did. And this oppression of the Jews was a necessary punishment due the OT church for years of hypocrisy and lukewarm living. I don't think many people parallel these things to today. The true church, in my opinion, needs to stay out of the fray of politics for it could very well be a judgement upon us just like the Jews. Jesus, Peter, Paul, and John all stayed out of political movements. Sure Paul 'stuck it to the man' a few times by invoking his rights as a Roman. BUT this was a reaction to an event he had no control over... he was arrested. He didn't proactively go out of his way to engage in politics, nor did he lead a movement in similarity. I'm not against sticking it to the man as Paul did when in front of the local Roman leadership. But this was the exception rather than the rule and it was, in fact, a mechanism to minister to one of the leaders who the Bible says listened intently and was somewhat moved by what Paul had said.

I believe that it's easier to speak against an oppressive gov't than a lukewarm church. I find this evident with the current Tea Party movement. We need a Tea Party against the Church first. It is obvious to the unsaved that the dominant, mainstream, Christian church looks pretty much like them yet somehow still forgiven and still capable of compromising God's word to achieve political influence. That's not an indictment against the Tea Party folks but all those politicians and those who support them who say that they are a follower of Christ, yet engage in all of the heinous activities that go against God just to get elected. These are those who use Christ for votes and influence yet live differently than anything they espouse. God can't be fooled, this gov't today could be a God ordained judgment against a hypocritical Church who has chosen political influence over Godly living and simple faith.

Re: , on: 2009/4/19 16:23

Quote

"God can't be fooled, this gov't today could be a God ordained judgment against a hypocritical Church who has chosen political influence over Godly living and simple faith."

Amen brother.....Frank

Re: Tea Parties, on: 2009/4/19 16:52

Hi KJ,

I just wanted to thank you for this.

Quote:

-----It should be noted for historical context the main reason the Jews were troubled over paying taxes was because the coinage in that day had Caesar's image on it. Being that Caesar was treated literally as being a god, the coinage was looked at by the Jews as idolatrous in nature. This, also in part, is why the money changers existed in the temple. The Jews wanted any money given to the temple treasury to be free from idolatrous contamination. Thus, the money changers would exchange currency for these purposes.

ccrider, thanks for the acknowledgement. I want to second the Amen of appolus for this comment, as it occurred to me

during this thread, that God has used oppressive governments in the past, to discipline His people while they are in captivity.

Quote:
-----God can't be fooled, this gov't today could be a God ordained judgment against a hypocritical Church who has chosen political influence over Godly living and simple faith.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2009/4/19 17:03

Quote:
-----those politicians and those who support them who say that they are a follower of Christ, yet engage in all of the heinous activities that go against God just to get elected. These are those who use Christ for votes and influence yet live differently than anything they espouse.

I was going to stay out of this discussion but this statement challenges my resolve...on the other hand this may be all I will say, who knows, being a woman and one who can easily change her mind! :-)

My comment: politically, Mississippi is conservative. The politicians use 'religion' to appeal to the religious folks in the state. And they are good at it, I promise. The late governor Kirk Fordice was very good at it. So was Congressman Chip Pickering - he served as a missionary in Hungary as a young man and so on...these guys espouse 'family values' only to violate them in the worst way. (By the grace of God Fordice had reconciled with his wife before his death.) If it repulses me I wonder how God feels - I know what he thinks but I wonder how much longer can this go on before they trigger his anger?

From observing Mississippian politicians one can easily see how they will use whatever it takes to get elected and in this state it is 'religion - God' and family values. So, then in voting for them are we becoming an enabler in their continuing sin? Oh, I forgot - most are Calvinists who believe in OSAS... :-)

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by run2win, on: 2009/4/19 17:07

Regarding such matters, we should take into account the full counsel of God and move according to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Some will be called to pray, others to action--doing all things in the spirit of love, for we are ambassadors for Christ in this fallen world. We once were as they are: lost and without hope in the world, until we heard the Good News--let us not become arrogant or boastful.

This nation was never designed to be run by the government, but it is to be run by the people; the government is our servant; the will of the people must be made known, and the voice of reason must be heard while we still have the freedom to declare our position.

This nation is a gift to us from God: He is our King, and it is in His name that we place our trust. We are called to take an active role as regards the direction of our great nation, first and foremost as Christians (aka citizens of heaven), but as Americans second.

Paul never renounced his Roman citizenship, nor should we renounce ours as Americans. The blood of our forefathers cries out to preserve our freedom, that we might speak truth freely and openly in love. Blood bought our freedom in Christ Jesus, and blood bought our freedom in this great nation. We are in the world, not of it; indeed, we must conduct ourselves wisely, redeeming the time.

I have seen firsthand the effects of socialism and communism; both crush and diminish the human spirit--these are evil systems. This nation allows the fullest freedom of the human spirit--and yes, that can be abused, and has been--but for the sake of openness to spreading the gospel, we should wish to preserve and hold dear all that was bought for us with precious blood!!

I adjure you to do a refresher in reviewing the documents that we as Americans hold dear: The Constitution, the Bill of Ri

ghts, the Declaration of Independence.

US Bill of Rights

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

May we conduct ourselves in wisdom and godliness.

Grace and peace to all.

Re: - posted by BenBrockway, on: 2009/4/20 9:21

Great points Run2Win! Now only if Apolus would get this!

"Paul never renounced his Roman citizenship, nor should we renounce ours as Americans."

Christ is King. He is ultimately to whom we live and stand for. In the midst of our lives spent for Christ, we too have every right and freedom under God AND U.S. law to voice our concern, opinion, and reason. After all, as you said Run2Win.. . "This nation was never designed to be run by the government, but it is to be run by the people; the government is our servant; the will of the people must be made known, and the voice of reason must be heard while we still have the freedom to declare our position." which is quite different then Caesar's days.

Apparently Apolus is still under Caesar's rule... ?

:-(:-?

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2009/4/20 12:08

Acts 25:12

Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go.

Acts 25:21

But when Paul had appealed to be reserved unto the hearing of Augustus, I commanded him to be kept till I might send him to Caesar.

Acts 25:25

But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself hath appealed to Augustus, I have determined to send him.

Acts 26:32

Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

Re: , on: 2009/4/20 14:35

Hi Heartsong, praise God for a Scripture. Opinions only go so far, philosophies come and go, If the Lord tarries another 100 years perhaps democracy will be long gone, but His Word shall remain, unchanged forever.

Hi Ben, you write....

"the will of the people must be made known, and the voice of reason must be heard while we still have the freedom to declare our position." which is quite different then Caesar's days."

My freedom was wrought for me on Calvary. The freedom that I have is the freedom that I have in Christ. No political force can give it to me and no political force can take it away from me. If God says "speak," then I will speak. If God says "move," then I will move. Its that simple. I have no rights in this world, only the right to serve my Lord and Saviour Jesus. They persecuted and scourged and killed Him, they may do the same to me or any brother or sister in Christ. As long as

they do it to me for the cause of Christ then so be it. Life is too short to live in fear and paranoia. I have no idea what the future holds, but I know that He holds it. To live in the future is to suspend the present. God Himself commands us to live one day at a time, for sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. He commands us to be anxious for nothing, commands us. If we expect, as Christians, to walk in the peace that surpasses all understanding, we have to be anxious for nothing, we have to recognize that this kind of fear is not only the opposite of faith, it is sin. I have no fear of the future because the Lord told me by His word that "the steps of a righteous man are ordered of God."

So brother, if you want to thrash around in the world, then that is your walk and you answer to Him, not to me. I will not be entangled in the things of the world. Tony Perkins repeated on Sunday the oft repeated statistic. One third of Americans claim to be born-again. If, in this coming year, every one of those 100 million people brought one person to Christ, one person, let me repeat, one person, then 100 million people would be saved in the most overwhelming revival the world has ever seen. Not only would the country be radically changed overnight with crime and abortion and Homosexuality and murder being slashed to an unbelievably small number, but the world would be enormously transformed as the vast resources of this great nation was turned towards the purposes of God. And all this brother, and all of this, by bringing one person to the Lord, each and every one of us. Now, you really want to change the world? Let us all get on our knees and cry out to the living God for forgiveness, forgiveness for the lukewarmness that leads people to be cynical about what I have just said. Forgiveness for taking our eyes off Jesus, forgiveness for our fear which is no different to the fear of the Israelites in the desert who wondered where their next meal or their water was going to come from even although they had personally witnessed some of the mightiest miracles that God has ever performed. God's heart was crushed by their lack of faith. And what did they do? They resorted back to idol worship. They gathered all the gold and the resources that they had taken from the "world," (Egypt) and they cast it in the form of their god and they fell down and they worshipped it. What are the modern day idols of the world? Political power? Military might? Economic force? Is that what the world puts its trust in? Is that what they worship? Perhaps, but not me brother. 100% of my trust is in the Lord, maker of Heaven and earth, who holds all the nations of the world in the palm of His hand, to whom all the nations are like a drop in a bucket. My God, and Him alone has all the answers to the world's problems, all of them. He does not need chariots or horses or tanks or bullets or political systems, in fact He commanded that all the chariots be burned with fire and the horses be hamstrung. What political sense did that make in that day? It was madness, yet His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than ours. He says it, I believe it, and I do not intend to turn to the left nor right (no political pun intended).

So brother, there it is :) I love you as a brother in Christ and it is my prayer that our God blesses you to be a mighty witness for Him. And with that blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit that when you speak you speak with the power to penetrate the hard hearts of men for the cause of Christ.....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2009/4/20 14:44

Y'all are thinking too hard about this. Also, I detest the judgementalism I'm reading on this thread. How stupid and petty.

If someone wants to join with like minded people and make their voices heard in a non-violent and legal manner then I say go for it. It isn't wrong, it isn't unbiblical and it is not a sin... except to those who think themselves more spiritual than everyone else.

And if you have a conviction against participating in such events... then follow your convictions, but stop thinking yourself more spiritual for having said convictions. If you do not have the freedom that others have, then so be it.

But all this back and forth on this topic makes about as much sense as feathers on a bear. According to scripture all y'all are sinning simply because your participating in foolish debates. I do it too... so maybe it's time we put a stop to it. Make some want to vomit.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2009/4/20 15:00

Then don't participate on threads that make you want to vomit. :-P

I'm much more concerned with what makes HIM vomit.

I don't think anyone's going to be judged for being there on the 15th and my main point was ... what constitutes the "luke warm" that makes HIM vomit?

I asked earlier - where do we spend most of our activism - on what issues and our thought life?

I'm afraid that I've heard that christians vote their "pocket books" as much as the world does.

Now 'that' would be extremely sad if true.

And which type threads do we spend the most pages on?

Seems to me the most complaining comes from those who seldom visit the Devotional & Articles Sections but always drift toward the debate threads, or start them and then complain about them after being on them for so many pages. :-o

maybe, on: 2009/4/20 15:25

God will answer my prayer, and this thread will die the DEATH it so richly deserves.

Re: maybe, on: 2009/4/20 15:40

Quote:

-----God will answer my prayer, and this thread will die the DEATH it so richly deserves.

I agree, F.W.! ;-)

Krispy

Re: maybe - posted by BenBrockway, on: 2009/4/20 16:05

Haha... preach it Krispy and Nathan.

Well said, the both of you!

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2009/4/20 20:04

Hi everyone.

I think that the passages that Heartsong shared are relevant, but could also give us an opportunity to consider this in a larger context.

Before this, in Acts chapter 19(EDIT: see Acts 19:21), it seems as that Paul had purposed and was being led by God to go to Rome. And later the Lord Himself told Paul how he would go there(Acts 23:11).

Did he then purposely appeal to Ceasar so that he could go there? Maybe not(Acts 28:19).

Did all of these events, his own prayers and the prayers of the saints(Rom 15:30-33), the plot by his own countrymen against him(Acts 23:12-16), the shipwreck(Acts 27:21-26), and all else, did these things work to bring him to where God had intended him to go?

I think that if we may be willing to say that God has been pleased to raise a wicked government to chastise us, we could also be willing to say that God had granted a form of government that gave its citizens a voice in its formation and future and direction.

The Lord Jesus said that to whom much is given, much would be required, and that it is necessary of us, to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Re: , on: 2009/4/20 22:43

A miracle type (<http://www.thetreeofliberty.com/vb/showthread.php?s7ef47a32d5137c8696d5940b62cbdbbd&t57562>) tea party.

It's either His will for you to 'go' or it's not. :-)

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiss (), on: 2009/4/21 0:06

Hi appolus...

I know that a couple of brothers are praying for an end to this thread, but I just wanted to address a couple of things before it goes.

Quote:
----- So brother, if you want to thrash around in the world, then that is your walk and you answer to Him, not to me. I will not be entangled in the things of the world.

I'm not sure that I follow what you're saying. Do you really think that those of us who feel the liberty (or even calling) to vote or participate in rallies that voice our concern about how elected officials choose to tax us are "thrashing around in the world"? If so, I am concerned that you misunderstand both our hearts and the purposes behind our limited involvement.

I am happy that you maintain that you are not "entangled in the world" (although I personally believe that you misunderstand what is being said in that particular passage...and that you may be more involved in government than you might recognize). However, I am seriously disappointed that you freely speak such rhetoric in a manner as if the rest of us are somehow spiritually inferior for not feeling the same as you do. I am quite confident that you don't mean to come across this way. Yet this is how I feel in nearly every post that you speak in regard to this sort of issue. You might even feel that God has led you to such a position. Please understand that the rest of us feel the same way.

Disclaimer: I didn't get involved with these "tea parties." In fact, I didn't even know about them until they were already taking place. Yet I agree with the notion that a government of consent should be accountable in matters of taxation (especially if an administration wants to spend our tax dollars to murder countless unborn children overseas). These rallies were simply a gathering of voices. They were non-violent. They didn't hurl accusations at government officials; rather, they simply were citizens telling other citizens what they felt about such issues.

Quote:

Tony Perkins repeated on Sunday the oft repeated statistic. One third of Americans claim to be born-again. If, in this coming year, every one of those 100 million people brought one person to Christ, one person, let me repeat, one person, then 100 million people would be saved in the most overwhelming revival the world has ever seen. Not only would the country be radically changed overnight with crime and abortion and Homosexuality and murder being slashed to an unbelievably small number, but the world would be enormously transformed as the vast resources of this great nation were turned towards the purposes of God. And all this brother, and all of this, by bringing one person to the Lord, each and every one of us.

This is very important...and I wholeheartedly agree!!! Unfortunately, this is often said but seldom practiced. I knew a guy who used to say something very similar to this in high school; but, when he was finally asked, he couldn't point to a single person that he had led to the Lord in the previous four years. We should weep with anguished tears if we aren't leading people to the Lord!

During college, I attended a wonderful Christian student organization. We were very visible on our college campus. We held many evangelical outreaches and we were having a wonderful move of God on our campus. We even financially supported several missionaries! In order to support the mission on the campus and send donations to missionaries, we would accept offerings and hold periodic fundraisers (like bake sales and car washes). Our car washes accepted "whatever you can afford" donations. During one of those car washes, one of the very vocal guys in our organization complained that we were accepting donations. "Why does this have to be about money?" he asked. He wanted us to do the car washes for free as a ministry for the passing motorists. He explained that this is "the Christian thing to do." We explained to him that the purpose of this car wash was to raise funds for missionaries by working hard. I told him that he could feel free to organize a free car wash at anytime...and that he could announce it and ask for volunteers. This was not good enough for him. He left in a puff of what he felt to be "righteous indignation" (he told people this). We had our car wash and earned funds for some missionaries. Ironically, this loud, young man never held one of those "free" car washes.

Why am I saying this? Our opinions may differ even though we believe in similar ends. This young man went around and caused quite a bit of problems because he incorrectly believed and told others that we were "entangled in the affairs of this world" and that we cared "more about money than souls." He was wrong. He didn't know that we held to the same core goals that he did - the salvation of souls in this lost and dying world. He continued to hurl his accusations about the rest of us to anyone who would listen to his complaints. He didn't realize that he was actually bearing false witness by claiming such things. In fact, his comments got out to others around the campus. He acted as though he was doing God a favor by speaking his words to other believers. Yet he never understood that we were wholeheartedly and prayerfully trying to win the lost on our campus and elsewhere.

Quote:

----- Now, you really want to change the world? Let us all get on our knees and cry out to the living God for forgiveness...

Amen!

Quote:

----- "...forgiveness for the luke-warmness that leads people to be cynical about what **I have just said**."

I trust that you mean the part about PRAYER and EVANGELISM and not your personal opinion about whether or not believers can vote or attend rallies about badly executed taxation. The former are undeniable truths that we can all embrace; the latter is simply an opinion.

I just hope that you realize that those of us who disagree with you still hold to the same truths that you do. We are seeking Christ with true spiritual hunger. We spend time with Him in prayer and worship as we seek His face. We hunger to see a move of God in this fallen world and in a church that seems to have fallen asleep. We long for Christ more than anything this world has to offer. In my case, I just feel (through much prayer and study of God's Word) that I have an opportunity to share my voice through various ways in this nation. We can disagree until the Lord returns...but I think that we need to be careful about "looking down" upon what many of us might prayerfully feel where the Lord has led us.

I do love you, brother.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2009/4/21 0:14

Hi Chris...

This is very interesting in that I was thinking about this today. The same government that taxes us also gives us a voice in the government (through a vote, free speech opportunities, etc...). While taxes are compulsory, our voice is a matter of conscience. My heart does not condemn me in this. After much prayer and study, I feel the liberty through a clear conscience to express my views through a vote, etc...

My relationship with the Lord dictates everything that I believe and do. This is true of the "spiritual" issues...and the matters of this life. I try to share the things that I believe from my prayer and study of the things of God in every aspect of my life. A vote or an opinion are just a couple of areas for which this is true.

Thank you for your reminder.

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2009/4/21 12:53

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Thus saith the LORD;

Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2009/4/21 14:17

Hi HeartSong...

Not trying to read too much into these passages, but are they directed here for a reason? I just want to remind you that those of us who do believe in limited involvement in things such as voting...or "tea parties" (I didn't take part in them) do trust in the Lord! To assume otherwise would be simply wrong.

Anyway, I apologize for this interjection. This is a great passage of Scripture...and I appreciate you sharing it with us. I just didn't know if there was a purpose for it...or if it is just a reminder that our faith should be on the Lord. God still uses doctors and medicine, after all, to heal the sick. The Lord certainly doesn't *need* to use such things...but we still live in a world where even Timothy was instructed to take a little "wine" because of his stomach's sake and his frequent infirmities (I Timothy 5:23).

Is it possible that God could allow believers to use their citizenship voice (such as a vote or rally) to affect the thoughts of a government of consent which is elected from mere fellow citizens of our temporary country? After all, Paul did invoke his citizenship to avoid a flogging and to appeal unto Caesar in order to take the Gospel to Rome.

Anyway, I apologize again for the question and interjection. The Lord bless you mightily!

Re: , on: 2009/4/21 14:39

Amen sister, a great reminder to us all. Men have their opinions, Scripture cuts to the heart of it.....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2009/4/21 16:11

This thread was a "rally" and we've failed the same "Bill of Rights" that were posted on page 8.

As soon as the opposing view point got to page 9 - already those of that conviction were told to disband - shut up - stop posting.

Sad - we failed our own demands for the rights of others for free expression and crys for peaceful-protests according to the same "right" that we are talking about on this thread -

US Bill of Rights

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Does this only apply to Congress and not to forum members?

We **are** entitled to our own convictions without being told to shut-up because the opposing view-point people may vomit, are praying we'll be quiet and mocking their own Brethren over such a foolish topic. Now 'that' is nauseatingly contradictory to everything said on this thread.

Sad.

Shows how far some folks will go against their own Brothers over what they say are our "Bill of RIGHTS".

My greatest fear is when they fully take those so-called "rights" away - how will we react then?

If this thread is any indication - we're in a world of mess.

Re: speaking to God and man - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2009/4/21 18:23

Hi everyone.

Chris, I really appreciate your desire that others would not judge you or others in their hearts, without knowing your heart in what you and they may do.

I was thinking about this and the story of Nehemiah came to mind. As I looked over the passages this stood out to me, how it says...

"...So I prayed to the God of heaven.

And I said unto the king..."

-from Nehemiah chapter 2 verses 4 and 5(KJV)

Was Nehemiah surprised when Artaxerxes began to ask him why he looked so sad? I don't know. But he had been praying to God about His people and asked God for mercy in the sight of the king.

And then an opportunity presented itself for him, and Nehemiah spoke, both to God, and to man.

I think that others have suggested something similar, that they may earnestly seek God for His help, but also seek justice and righteousness in the earth through lawful means.

I personally know very little about the situation in this thread, but I hope that we can all, with all sincerity, earnestly desire that whatever the other believers do here, that they may be able to do it with all goodness and godly sincerity, and with no offence before God or man. And that we should all pray unto the same.

Goodness and mercy be with you all.

Re: - posted by broclint (), on: 2009/4/21 18:27

Dear Brother Frank, and all the rest,

I have to agree that this thread has run far more than its course... but I fear that the reason can be stated with scripture with the following two cited: Matthew 7:1-5

Quote:
-----1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

and Romans 14:1-12

Quote:
----- 1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. 4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. 10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

We are called to liberty only not to use liberty as an occasion to stumble our brother's Paul tells us.

There has been the repeated use of a couple of scriptures but there has been the violation of the above cited scriptures in the use of them. Indeed the scriptures do say what they say!

"For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword...".
It is a two edged sword... it cuts both ways.

There is exegesis and eisegesis.

Perhaps there should be more exegesis than eisegesis in judgment of the brethren... It is not improving your standing at all among brothers to take a stand that refuses to see your brother's point when it is so very obvious, and just as equally scriptural. You have to omit the whole Old Testament and the prophets to make it unscriptural.

The history of the church, from the time of Justin Martyr, (and most of the ante-nicene fathers) through the Reformation and beyond is one of petitioning government, and often fighting government, (and it is simply an ignorant stand to say that they did not fight it in the issue of taxes, because the Church and State were the same) and in fact there would have been

n no reformation at all without men like Waldo, John Huss, Martin Luther, Zwingli (died with a sword in his hand), John Calvin, John Knox being involved to the degree that their conscience and the Word of God allowed in government, because the church was the government for most of the period from the 4th through the 17th century.

Make your stand according to your own conscience but do not try to condemn your brothers and the whole of Christian history in the meantime!

Clint

Re: - posted by run2win, on: 2009/4/21 18:37

"By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through." Ecc10:18

I see in Scripture the counsel of stewardship. If we are given power to do good, and don't do it, is that not being a poor manager of what God has entrusted to us?

Were not the nations, including the United States, created by God for His glory? We are called to make Him known to all the nations. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." At the present, the USA has freedom to print and distribute Bibles, to teach others about Jesus, to openly speak truth. What a gift and a blessing!

Consider this passage from Acts 17:24-28: "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."

I remember Keith Daniel saying that he concentrated his speaking time in the USA because it is a nation of senders. Can we not see the goodness and cherish the blessings of our land?

No doubt, the rafters are sagging, and the house could cave in any minute...who will deliver us out of this wreckage? God is able!!

At what level do we do nothing? I visited East Berlin before the wall came down; the distance of a few feet separated the captives from the free--unforgettable the difference. Do you know how many died trying to get from one side to the other?? For years after that, I prayed that God would bring the wall down. I didn't see how, but I knew He had the power to do it. And I had the burden to pray that it would be done. He made the way, as you all know--only God could do it--there is no other explanation, but the energy and zeal of human hands brought it down. I'll never forget that day.

I use this example to demonstrate that while I was praying (along with many others), God was calling others to action. It works like that, and God is glorified in all of it.

Let's stop devouring one another. I don't care if anyone considers me spiritually weak for loving my country.

Re: - posted by run2win, on: 2009/4/21 18:52

BroClint and ChrisJD,

You must have been writing your posts at the same time as I. Both of you cited scripture passages that support my position on this subject. Thank you for those additions.

Our liberty is a treasure; may we use it, and all of our resources, for the glory of the Lord.

Re: , on: 2009/4/21 19:09

Brother Clint, I believe you are a reasonable man. I sincerely do.

When you bring up the Reformers - please also remember that there are those of us also who have read and respect the Anabaptists and all that they went through - sometimes at the hands of the Reformed.

That is why this conversation can go in either direction - based upon which history or which convictions from either side that each member holds to.

There must be a way to end this thread in a Biblical fashion. I suppose that is why it's here - to test us - for when "all the world hates us" and our freedoms 'are' gone - how will we respond to it all then?

Us of the Anabaptist persuasion, that fellowship and love our Reformed Brethren will have some very big decisions to make one day, I believe.

I know that only Love for HIM first and for each other 2nd is the only way we'll get out of this earth in Victory.

Just some thoughts.

Bless you & your family