

## GOD AND GOVERNMENT

### Open:

In what must have felt like a debate setting, the religious leaders of Jesus' day were trying to corner Him.

**Mark 12:13-17 NLT** <sup>13</sup> Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. <sup>14</sup> "Teacher," they said, "we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don't play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? <sup>15</sup> Should we pay them, or shouldn't we?"

Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, "Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I'll tell you." <sup>16</sup> When they handed it to him, he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. <sup>17</sup> "Well, then," Jesus said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." His reply completely amazed them.

- The Herodians (NKJV) were a political party of that day. Jews who backed Herod.
  - ✓ Their flattery was part of their strategy ... nonetheless, it was true ... Jesus was neither Democrat or Republican ... impartial.
  - ✓ He looked at issues from God's perspective and was not swayed by power, prestige or position.
  - ✓ The original (Greek) word for tribute/taxes = Kēnsos, pronounced Kān-sos ... we get the English word census.
  - ✓ The Romans counted its citizens and made each one pay an annual tax. (This is what brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem.)
  - ✓ Jesus being aware of their ulterior motive answers their question anyway ... citizens are obligated to pay their taxes.

\* What I find interesting is: political conversations then as now can be "powder kegs."

- This morning, I am not here to plug a party, but I do want to look at some Biblical values.

- √ The economic problems we are facing are the result of the judgment of God.
  - √ We are being judged because we are no longer a God-fearing nation.
  - √ Our morals and our character are unraveling ... what's right and what's wrong ... the lines have been blurred.
- To focus entirely on the economy and to ignore moral decay is like putting a Band-Aid on a tumor.
- √ Morals do not come from public opinion but from theology, and theology comes from the Bible.
    - The Bible has been entrusted to the church, to believers.
    - You and I are God's mouthpiece, and our goal is not to be politically correct but Biblically accurate.
- \* Warning: This message may offend ... we must not be intoxicated by the world or be spiritually asleep ... Christ is the hope of the world, and He impacts how I live and how I vote.
- √ As long as we are here (on earth), we are to be salt and light, and sometimes that stings, cures, cleanses, flavors, exposes and illuminates the path so we and others know where to walk.
- \* The question isn't who but how should we vote ... let Scripture be your guide.

**Hosea 4:6 NLT** My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children.

- \* What is it we need to know?

**(Video Clip)**

(1) God is pro-life.

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NLT** <sup>19</sup> “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! <sup>20</sup> You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

– Since Roe vs. Wade in 1973, approximately 55 million babies have been aborted ... equivalent to 3,300 abortions a day ... 137 every hour in the United States.

√ Those pro-choice argue the mother’s right ... what about the babies’ right?

– Scripture teaches that life begins at conception.

√ God to Jeremiah: **Jeremiah 1:5 NLT** I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb, before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.

**Psalms 139:13-16 NLT** <sup>13</sup> You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. <sup>14</sup> Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. <sup>15</sup> You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. <sup>16</sup> You saw me before I was born.

√ Children need to be protected ... truth is the most dangerous place for a child is in the mother’s womb.

**Matthew 18:10 NLT** Beware that you don’t look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.

– MRI machines today show us life begins in the womb and as a result there are fewer abortions.

√ If you have had an abortion, know that God can forgive and I believe the soul of your little one is in heaven.

→ Vote for the candidate that is pro-life.

→ God cannot bless a nation that murders its babies.

### **(Video Clip)**

**(2)** God defines marriage as one man and one woman.

➤ Stated at the beginning of time.

**Genesis 2:24 NKJV** Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

√ Jesus repeats this in Matthew and Mark's gospels: **Matthew 19** and **Mark 10**.

√ The union of one man and one woman is timeless, universal and special.

- It is the only relationship absolutely essential for humanity (2 women nor 2 men can bring a child into the world.)
- Marriage is the fundamental building block for civilization.
- When possible it is best to have a mom and dad investing and guiding their children.
- Men and women bring different gifts to family life ... neither are replaceable ... a mom cannot be dad, and dad cannot be mom.

→ Redefining marriage ... compromising what a family looks like will weaken our nation.

→ When we protect marriage, we protect children.

\* Lest I sound homophobic ... God loves the homosexual but calls his lifestyle sin.

**Romans 1:26-27 NLT** <sup>26</sup> That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. <sup>27</sup> And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

√ Sex is God's gift to a married couple ... the total giving of oneself to another ... sex prior to marriage, affairs while married and sex with the same sex is all sin ... God does not approve of it.

→ Any attempt to change the Biblical definition of marriage will not be blessed by God!

→ Vote for the candidate that holds to this truth.

**(3)** God is pro-Israel.

\* America must strengthen her commitment to stand with Israel.

– Israel has the right to stay in her land, has been our friend and helps stabilize that part of the world.

√ Though many Jews are spiritually blind and do not yet claim Jesus as Messiah, they will eventually ... when God comes to rescue them.

**Isaiah 43:1 (Good News Translation GNT)** Israel, the Lord who created you says, "Do not be afraid. I will save you. I have called you by name – you are mine.

**Isaiah 43:10 GNT** People of Israel, you are my witnesses; I chose you to be my servant, so that you would know me and believe in me and understand that I am the only God. Besides me there is no other god; there never was and never will be.

– The nations that stand against Israel will find themselves on the wrong side when Jesus returns.

**Genesis 12:3 NLT** God to Abraham: **I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt** (despised, disgraced, dishonored). **All families of the earth will be blessed through you.**

→ We need a candidate that will stand with Israel and not buckle when radical Islam threatens to wipe her off the map.

(4) God encourages financial integrity.

– America must get her spending under control ... borrowing money or printing money will not fix our problem.

**Romans 13:8 NLT** **Owe nothing to anyone – except for your obligation to love one another.**

√ We must pay our financial obligations when they are due, and strapping the next generation with enormous debt is irresponsible and immature.

**Proverbs 22:7 NLT** **Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.**

√ We cannot borrow our way to financial stability.

– Kingdom economics:

√ People prosper when they steward the gifts God has given them. God blesses diligence.

√ Employers are to treat their employees well.

√ Employees are to work hard and be a blessing to their employers.

√ In society, we should help those who can't, not those who won't.

**Don't work, you don't eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:10**

√ We must not rob people of the privilege and dignity of work.

√ The poor and needy need a hand up and not a hand out ... with help comes accountability.

- What is good for the nation is good for the family ... implement a responsible financial strategy.
- Vote for the candidate that can get America back on solid financial grounds.

**Close:**

Scripture is not some outdated document of years gone by but is the infallible, inerrant, eternal Word of God.

- √ The Bible is universally applicable, trans-cultural and multi-generational.
- √ As believers we are accountable to God to vote for those that best line up with Biblical values.
- \* Know this: regardless who is elected, God is sovereign ... He has a plan and He is working out His plan.
- Vote Biblical values! We shall see how much salt is left in the shaker.

Message Notes  
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