

# Faithful in Every Kingdom

## Why Christians Should Pay Attention to Politics?

Over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to write several bulletin articles addressing events happening in our world, particularly here in the United States and in the Middle East. Articles such as “Regime Change,” “Weapons of War, Weapons of Peace,” and “Suppressing the Oppressor” were written with one goal in mind, to speak of the current issues, but from a biblical, not political, perspective.

This raises an important question. Should Christians even be paying attention to politics at all?

Some believe the answer is no. They argue that politics is worldly and that Christians should avoid it entirely. Others go to the opposite extreme and become so consumed by political matters that their faith takes a back seat. The truth lies somewhere in between.

First, we must recognize that government itself is established by God. The apostle Paul wrote, *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”* Romans 13:1. This means that authority is not merely a human invention, it is part of God’s order for society. Because of this, Christians should not ignore it altogether.

At the same time, we must remember that we are citizens of two kingdoms. Paul reminds us, *“For our citizenship is in heaven.”* Philippians 3:20. Jesus also said, *“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”* Matthew 22:21. Some take passages like these, along with Jesus’ statement, *“My kingdom is not of this world,”* John 18:36, and Peter’s words, *“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,”* 2 Peter 1:3, to conclude that Christians should completely disengage from worldly matters, including politics.

However, that conclusion overlooks an important reality, we still live in this world. We raise families here, work here, and influence others here. While our ultimate loyalty belongs to God, we are still responsible for how we live and act within the societies where we reside.

Another reason Christians should pay attention is that righteousness matters. The Bible teaches, *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”* Proverbs 14:34. The moral direction of a nation affects its people. Laws reflect values, leadership influences culture, and culture shifts can impact how truth is received. When righteousness declines, the consequences are far-reaching, not just socially, but spiritually.

Consider the examples of Joseph and Daniel. Joseph rose to power in Egypt and played a critical role in guiding the nation through a time of crisis. In both cases, these men were engaged in the affairs of their governments while remaining fully devoted to God. Similarly, Daniel lived under pagan governments and served in positions of authority, yet he

remained faithful to God. He did not withdraw from society, nor did he compromise his convictions.

Christians today are called to have that same kind of influence. Jesus said, *"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world."* Matthew 5:13-14. Salt preserves, and light reveals. We are not called to withdraw from the world, but to influence it for good. This includes praying for leaders, as Paul instructed, *"I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority."* 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

However, there is an important caution. While Christians should be aware and engaged, our hope must never be placed in politics. The psalmist warns, *"Do not put your trusts in princes."* Psalm 146:3. Governments change, leaders come and go, but God's kingdom endures forever.

In the end, Christians should pay attention to politics, not because it is our source of hope, but because it is one of the arenas in which we live out our faith. We engage thoughtfully, speak carefully, and act righteously, always remembering that God is our King, Christ is our Savior, and heaven is our home.

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