

## **WHAT SHOULD BE MY PERSPECTIVE?**

- \* There is still a lot of good in the world and a host of good people that are doing really great things to make the world a better place!!!!
- \* As people of faith, we are called on by our Lord, to be a part of good deeds to our fellow man!

### **James 2:18 (NIV)**

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

- \* Let's settle the fact that we as people of faith, as Christians, are to be living a life of **good works!!**

### **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- \* Having settled the issue of "good works" that reflect **God's nature**, **your faith and standards** and **loving your neighbor**, it is important to realize **HOW** this is accomplished!!!

- I. Jesus made an incredible **statement to Pilate** that many Christians today do not seem to understand!! At least we act as if we do not!!!

### **John 18:33-36 (NIV)**

**33** Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

**34** "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

**35** “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

**36** Jesus said, “**My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest** by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

A. A **Greek word study** reveals that Jesus was saying, “The authority that supports **my dominion** is not from the **influences of societal and governmental structures** of this world!!!

**1. If societal change and governmental involvement were effective enough to bring genuine godliness to a nation it would seem that Jesus or Paul one would have more to say about it!!**

2. Because **society** and especially portions of the Church of Jesus Christ are so **politically charged**, I want to be **completely clear!!**

3. As Christians and people of faith we should be involved in every aspect of society! Education, Arts and Entertainment, Law Enforcement, Media, Business and ***yes, even in***

### **GOVERNMENT!**

4. BUT, let’s not **act as though salvation and transformation** come through **political actions and influence!!**

B. It seems that in todays climate **theological divisions** have been replaced by **political divisions!!!**

1. We could spend much time reviewing what scripture says about this but it seems Paul’s encouragement to Colossi sums it up:

### **Colossians 3:1-11 (NIV)**

**3** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2 Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**5 Put to death, therefore**, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

**6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. **11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.**

2. Paul encourages us to “**set our hearts and minds**” on things of the **Kingdom of God!**
3. This is **living from a spiritual perspective** and not a worldly perspective!
4. **Do I react according to what’s going on in the world** or do I **act according to God’s predetermined standards?**
5. Living in a **reactionary** way is a miserable way to live!

C. Let’s never forget that our faith declares that **God is in charge** of His creation.....even when it doesn’t seem like it!!

### **Isaiah 40:15, 23 (NIV)**

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;  
they are regarded as dust on the scales;  
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.  
He brings princes to naught  
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

1. Let’s be brutally honest! Where does The Sermon on the Mount fit into our cultural and political life? How does The Beatitudes form our behavior? How do you make this fit into our present circumstances?
2. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”.
3. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”.
4. “Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called sons of God”.
5. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven”.

6. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake."
7. "Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven".

D. Where is our **TRUST AND ALLEGIANCE** as people of Faith?

### **Psalm 118:8-9 (NIV)**

It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in humans.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes.

### **Psalm 20:7 (NIV)**

Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God

II. Let's come to the understanding that **God promoting His Kingdom in a fallen world** is what life is all about!!

A. In Sunday school we are **taught this principle**, but somewhere along the way we "mature" passed this principle learn to influence the world through **political actions, cultural trends** and **educating people** out of our **fallen condition!!**

### **Matthew 6:9-13 (Note different translation: NCV)**

**9** So when you pray, you should pray like this:

'Our Father in heaven,  
may your name always be kept holy.

**10** May your kingdom come  
and what you want be done,  
here on earth as it is in heaven.

**11** Give us the food we need for each day.

**12** Forgive us for our sins,  
just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us.

**13** And do not cause us to be tempted but save us from the Evil One.' [The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. Amen.]

B. Let's all make sure that while we live our lives, are active in our careers and are involved in our culture, we NEVER forget the **MAIN THING.....the good news of the kingdom of God!**

**Colossians 1:19-20 (NIV)**

**19** For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)**

**4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Revelation 11:15 (NIV)**

“The kingdom of the world has become  
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,  
and he will reign for ever and ever.”

\* **I should live my life FROM a Kingdom of God perspective rather than from the Kingdoms of this world perspective!!**