

Faith in Politics or Not?

Arthur Barry

The Biblical command to obey governing authorities carries the warning that governors do not bear the sword for nothing (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17). This may well be the hardest commandment for many of us who live in, what we call, a democratic society today. We need to remember that, historically, the basic duty of government is to maintain law and order, and hence they “bear the sword”. In Paul’s day people did not expect their government to provide health care, child care, college tuition relief, reproductive rights or sex-change therapy. Our present day U.S. political system is much more complex and takes responsibility for almost every aspect of our lives. This causes moral dilemmas for many of us. How should we act? Jesus was put to death on the authority of the Roman governor, but the reason He died was because He had run afoul of a political system within the Roman Empire. That system was a corrupted form of Judaism. Jesus did not conform to the standards of correctness that Jewish leaders taught. Pilate could not have cared less about their grievances, but they used political coercion to convince him to crucify Jesus. Jesus was no politician; He always told people the truth. He was up front with His followers when He told them that they should expect the world to hate them as it had hated Him. And so, when they began campaigning for Jesus, the same political system that hated Jesus decided to crush them too. In one of the early confrontations Peter established the platform for those who sincerely follow Christ, and it is far from being a political platform. Two main points surface from Peter’s words in Acts 4:5-20:

1. Jesus is the only name that provides salvation. (Acts 4:12)
2. If you do not like the message, the question is should we obey you or God? Do not expect us to change the message. (Acts 4:19,20)

Peter did not endorse any earthly leader, nor did he unveil any health care plan.

Now look at 2 Peter 2:10 where Peter gives us a description of those whom God considers unrighteous.

...and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,

Obviously, the Apostles are not included among those who despise authority, even though they rebelled against their own rulers. True faith recognizes true authority that glorifies God. True faith also recognizes the powers that set themselves up against God. True faith accepts that sin is the besetting, annihilating curse that must be dealt with, and that it can only be dealt with by God’s authority-- not by men’s politics. Righteousness is about doing what is right in God’s sight, not what is politically expedient.



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
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January 15, 2017

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class- 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Home Bible study-7:00pm

**ALL THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST
GREET YOU.
ROMANS 16:16**

Today’s Sermon: *The End of the Gospel as We Know It.*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Scripture: Romans 9:30-10:4

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Next potluck: February 19th Theme: TBA...watch this space!**
- **Ladies Class: 10am, Tuesday, January 17th at the building. We will be discussing chapter 2 of Struggle, Seek, Grow, which is about Hannah.**
- **Midweek Bible study @ McElhaney's Thursday nights at 7pm. Coffee and dessert is usually served. All contributions gladly accepted! Study will be held at the building this week.**



- There are several **plastic baby bottles** for anyone who would like one to take home and fill with money to help the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center during their January campaign. **Bring it back when full and grab a new one.**



- Most of our men had breakfast together yesterday at Bren's in Ulster. Hopefully this Men's Breakfast can become a regular time to discuss plans and direction while praying for God's guidance.
- It's **POTLUCK** today! Please stay and join us in fellowship and eating healthy food!



- Remember this is the cold and flu season. Take care of yourself and others.



PRAYERS...

- Several of our members have been ill with cold and flu viruses and/or bacterial infections, such as sinus or bronchitis. We pray that we can all become healthy and stay that way throughout the winter and spring.
- Pray for Patty and Ruthie's sister in law, Deborah, who has stage 4 breast cancer. Her spirits are good and she feels well.
- Endless Mountains Pregnancy Center requests prayers for their clients, that abortion-minded women will have a change of heart, and that all will accept the abundant life in Christ.
- Pray for all of our family members and loved ones who are yet lost or have strayed far away to come (back) to Christ.
- Darlene has been diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. She anticipates surgery on the 31st. She is also being tested for either of the BRCA gene mutations, and if positive for one of them, her plans will change accordingly. Pray for her complete recovery and peace as she deals with the loss of her father.
- Keep praying for the Endless Mountains church in Tunkhannock and their search for a preacher.
- Pray for comfort for those from war-torn countries who have no homes, are starving (Northeastern Nigeria) and without water and are not safe and have lost friends and relatives in the violence that surrounds them (Aleppo).
- Remember to pray for Ben Wright in Kittanning, Matthew Lowe in Ohio, and Edna Jarrett, of the Bronx. Also Lori Kashorek in Plattsburgh, NY and Rocky Perry of Sayre.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry

barnecat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.