

Wednesday night, May 1, Auditorium Class, Glasgow, Kentucky

1. CIVIL GOVERNMENT...WHAT IT IS NOT

1. It is not moral government. It does not legislate morality. *Rom. 13:1; Titus 3:1,2*
 2. It is not designed to punish immorality or sin. *1 Pet. 2:13,14*
 1. A man can cuss, drink all he wants, marry as many times as he can secure divorces, tell as many lies as he wishes just so long as he does not get caught up in a libel suit.
 3. Civil statutes define crime, not sin.

2. WHAT CIVIL GOVERNMENT IS

1. It is just what its name implies: Pertains to a city or state, or to a citizen in his relationship to his fellow-citizens.
 1. We owe to Caesar civil government, only that which is civil.
 2. We owe to God that which is moral or religious, Mark 12:17.
 2. Civil authority or civil power enforces certain moral precepts such as murder, perjury, theft.
 1. These are not enforced however as the commands of God, but as violations of civil relations.

3. CIVIL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ENFORCE THE LAWS OF GOD

1. If so then the civil government would enact and enforce penalties and punishment for Hate, Falsehood, impurity, evil thought, lust ETC.
 1. The civil government doesnot enforce penalties in these areas except as the fruit of hate, falsehood, impurity, evil thought, lust come in conflict with civil law.
 2. If the function of the civil power is to enforce the commands of God, then the civil magistrate could have no right to enforce civil law against one whose transgressions God had forgiven. Example:
 1. Between the time the criminal is found guilty and the imposing or passing of the sentence:
 1. He repents and obtains divine forgiveness, then the civil power must forgive when God forgives. The criminal must go free.
 2. Since forgiveness according to the Lord, is to be granted "seven time seven times," it would follow that the civil power must do the same thing successively.
 3. I have known of convicts being truly converted while they were serving time for one crime or another. They could not go free but had to pay their debt to society.
 3. If the gospel of Christ were adopted as the code of government it would become the duty of every to act accordingly and forgive, on the assurance of repentance.
 1. This would be done without respect of persons, or the nature and degree of guilt, or whether it be a misdemeanor or a felony.
 2. Such procedure would destroy civil government completely. On the other hand:
 3. If the legal and penal statutes of civil government should be adopted religiously, it would destroy the blessings of the gospel entirely.

4. A MARK OF POLITICAL WISDOM

1. There is no greater mark of political wisdom than that displayed by the fathers of this republic, in saying: "Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."
 2. The bond and band of religion and civil government.
 1. The bond of communion in the church is the duty of man to God in obedience to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 1. Membership in the church depends on the grace of God and the faith of man in relation to the conditions of the gospel. It is grace on the part of God and obedience on the part of man.
 2. Citizenship in a state is determined by the relation of man to a political arrangement. Man must meet the requirements to be a citizen in any political arrangement.

5. MAN MAY CHANGE STATE LAWS...HE CANNOT CHANGE GOD'S LAW

1. ~~The~~ church is under God's law which is not subject to alteration, a kingdom which cannot be moved, and faith which cannot be changed. (2) The state is a human order subject to the will of the people, and its laws are liable to amendment and repeal.

Feb 12 '28

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[The following text is mirrored bleed-through from the reverse side of the page and is largely illegible. It appears to be a list of names and dates, possibly a church directory or membership list.]

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6. SPHERES OF OPERATION FOR THE CIVIL KINGDOM VERSUS CHRIST'S KINGDOM

1. The sphere of the kingdom of Christ is the domain of the truth according to God.
 1. The authority, or rule for this kingdom is the word of God. The divine Teacher (Jesus) "taught them as one having authority," Matthew 7:29
 2. Standing before his stately tribunal in John 18:36 Jesus startled Governor Pilate with three statements. They are:
 1. "My kingdom is not of this world."
 1. It was strange, and I am sure rather startling to Pilate to hear of a kingdom that could exist on something other than weapons of legionary might and military power.
 2. "If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight..."
 1. Christ's kingdom is supernatural, not of human origin.
 2. In earthly kingdoms the subjects fight to deliver their king from their enemies.
 3. In contrast to the earthly kingdom, my kingdom is spiritual and moral and is not maintained by carnal weapons.
 4. My kingdom being spiritual is maintained by "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God..." Eph. 6:17. This sword is "sharper than any towedged sword" as we read in Heb. 4:12.
 3. "My kingdom is not from hence."
 1. The expression "not from hence" mean from here. The kingdom of Christ is here, in this world but not of the world. The kingdom of heaven is:
 1. Since it is from heaven, then it is the kingdom of heaven on earth.
 2. It is the reign of heaven in this world.
 3. It is the rule of Christ, reign of Christ the King, in the hearts of men.
2. The sphere of the earthly kingdom is the civil and social order.
 1. The powers of civil government pertain soley to the relations of men to men and to the government involved.
 2. Civil government has the divinely ordained right and obligation to protect the person and the property of the person from all invasion from within or without.
 3. The rightful existence and function of civil government is recognized by the Lord together with its just claims upon us. Romans 13:1; "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.
 4. The role of the citizen in the earthly kingdom is twofold:
 1. Romans 13:3, "Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good..." Rom. 13:4 also
 2. Romans 13:4, "But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."
 5. The dual role of the officer. Romans 13:1-4
 1. He is a minister of God, a helper therefore of those who do good.
 2. He is a minister of God to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

7. WHAT SOME TEACH REGARDING GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNED

1. In early days the Roman government decreed the the people were the property of the empire. This meant of course that kings had divine rights.
 1. The kings was the final authority in all matters civil and religious.
2. The Roman Catholic church declared that the state is a creature of the church and subjugated to it.
 1. The Catholic still teaches this doctrine and actually practices this doctrine in all those countries where the Catholic church holds power.
3. The Puritan party claimed that the church should regulate the government and actually dominate the government.
4. The present day Jehovah's Witnesses denomination teaches that all human civil government is of the devil and should be disobeyed.
5. Churches of Christ accept the biblical teaching. Examples:
 1. The "render to Caesar" and "render to God" pronouncements as given by Jesus. (Matt. 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26). (2) Paul's teaching, "For this cause pay ye tribute also...tribute to whom tribute is due..." Romans 13:6,7

8. THE IDENTITY OF THE CHRISTIAN AND THE MISCONCEPTION OF CHRISTIANITY1. The identity of the Christian.

1. The Christian is a person, not just any person however.
 2. The Christian is a person who has been baptized into Christ, and is therefore in Christ and a follower of Christ.
 3. The term Christian is used only as a noun, never as an adjective in the New Testament, and the term Christianity is not used at all.
2. The popular concept of Christianity is a misconception.
1. The world views what is called Christianity as a sort of an ecclesiastical, soteriological system in competition with secular institutions.
 2. Christianity is a personal matter and therefore deals with a person: a Christian.
 3. In the Bible no such institution is revealed as that which has become known to the world as a Christian Institution in honor of some achievement.
 4. Because of this, to apply the name Christian to secular institutions, private enterprises and organized charities is to misuse the name.
 1. The Christian is the person, and the designation applies only to a person.

9. THE SOLDIERS OF LUKE 3:14

1. These soldiers were among the converts of John. They asked John a question, "And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, and what shall we do?" John answered them as follows:

1. Do violence to no man. (Or, put no man in fear)
 2. Neither accuse any falsely.
 3. Be content with your wages.
2. What did John say to the soldiers when he said:
1. Do violence to no man. It would have the same meaning of Jeremiah 22:3 where we read, "Thus saith the Lord, Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.
 1. Do not take advantage of military standing to deal violently with people.
 2. Do not put people under fear and dread through unlawful seizures
 3. Do not so act toward people or abuse people so as to become an object of dread among the people. Policemen should not use their billy clubs simply to create fear.
 2. Neither accuse any falsely. What did John tell these soldiers?:
 1. Do not intimidate the the populace, the common people.
 2. Do not engage in the retail of contemptible gossip which gives birth to abusive slander. What men have said about gossip:
 1. Pascal said, "Gossip has been well defined as putting two and two together and making five.
 2. Ouida said, "Gossip, pretending to have the eyes of an Argus, has all the blindness of a bat.
 3. In Proverbs 6:19 we read that an abomination to the Lord is, "A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."
 1. One of the most solemn and responsible positions that any man can occupy is the witness-box.
 2. No small wonder then that John charged the soldiers, "neither accuse any falsely."
 3. Be content with your wages.
 1. Money the source of much trouble among men. 1 Tim. 6:10
 2. The soldiers were not act the part of informers, laying vexatious charges of disaffection against persons, for money. That they might have more money.
 3. In that day soldiers some times were paid in meat, grain, and fruit, plus a small amount of money.

10. WHAT DID JOHN TELL THESE SOLDIERS? (He did not tell them to get out of the army)

1. The attempted argument against military service from this passage would force John to say, "Accept your wages but disobey orders to perform the services and duties of soldiers."

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