

The Christian and Politics

Bible Rules and Suggestions to Know How to Relate to Civil Government

“And of the children of Issachar,
which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do;
the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.”
I Chronicles 12:32

Suggested Reading: Job 34:16-20; Psalm 2, 11, 75, 82, 146; Prov 16:14-15; 24:21-22; Eccl 8:1-5; 10:4; Isaiah 3:1-26; 10:5-19; 37:1-38; Jer 29:4-7; Matt 22:15-22; Rom 13:1-7; I Tim 2:1-3; Titus 3:1; I Pet 2:13-17; II Pet 2:10-12; Jude 1:8-10; etc.

Introduction:

1. It is the first Sunday after the 2016 presidential election, which Donald Trump and Republicans won.
3. We downplay politics and elections because the N.T. does and because of our past sinful proclivities.
4. So we said or wrote very little publicly in the year leading up to this election. Godly wisdom trumps!
5. God has saved us and taught us concerning His will toward civil authority, for which we give thanks.
6. Our gift and sacrifice to God of honor to rulers is our duty, so we are still unprofitable (Luke 17:10).
7. Our prayer meeting last Sunday (before election) was excellent, and we should believe the results.
8. If we consider the godless elements of our society, the election results powerfully humiliated them.
9. We love God’s description of the virgin daughter of Zion mocking Sennacherib (II Kings 19:20-37).
10. President-elect Trump’s platform and promises gave hope; even a small performance will be good.
11. This may well be a reprieve for repentance, and we can answer the call even if the nation does not.
12. We do not know if President-elect Trump will do or can do much of what he promised campaigning.
13. Consider our Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and District Courts that the new president will fill.
14. We are somewhere between guarded euphoria and excited concern as we put our trust in our Father.
15. We commend former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for her gracious concession speech, saying,
“Donald Trump is going to be our president. We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead.”
16. Anarchy in our streets and high school children walking out of class show the character of that side.
17. Donald Trump is not a Messiah; he barely admitted being a Christian, if pushed hard by Christians.
18. We also need some closure to the long, drawn-out, overdone campaigns and drama of the last year.
19. The Bible did not prophesy about this election, about Donald Trump, or about anything even related.
20. We are glad and excited for limited aspects of this election – but there is no national revival at all.
30. The Bible is the only perfect political manual, and it can lead to perfect knowledge (II Tim 3:16-17).
21. A quick survey of suggested Bible reading above will convince you of God’s inspired wisdom to us.
22. This subject, though appearing rather carnal, gives great glory to God, His King Jesus, and the Bible.
23. This is not an exhaustive study, but inclusion of the material linked below makes it more thorough.
22. Individual points below could be developed into major studies, if we were inclined, but we are not.
23. These points need to be embraced far beyond head knowledge, knowing they are Biblical and right.
24. Our faith in God and His word and the commitment of our lives is based on how we respond here.
25. Change your emotions, responses, thoughts, speech, and actions about political events and rulers.
26. Politics = civil government’s authority, administration, influence, elections, obedience, taxation, etc.
27. We love our nation, our form of government, its various offices, and those men and women in office.
28. We stress in our church to give thanks and pray for our nation and rulers high and low (I Tim 2:1-3).
29. On Sunday, Nov 13, God blessed our political prayer meeting mightily with content and conviction.
30. In some cases, this study is God’s axioms for conduct, but it is also for learning how to think wisely.

For Further Study:

1. PowerPoint slides ... *Living under Obama* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/living-under-obama-2.pdf>.
2. Sermon outline ... *Ordinance of Authority* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/authority-ordinance-of.pdf>.
3. Study outline ... *God Bless the IRS* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/god-bless-the-irs.pdf>.
4. Sermon outline ... *Christian and Taxes* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/practical/christian-and-taxes.php>.
5. *Christian Ethics* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-case-studies.pdf>.
6. *Death of a Nation* (Isaiah 3 in slides) ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/death-of-a-nation.pdf>.
7. *Praying for America* in slides after Ferguson ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/praying-for-america.pdf>.

INDEX OF 80 POINTS

1. **God Reigns Over All**

- A. He is absolute sovereign of the universe, and He rules over all (Ps 93:1; Is 52:7).
- B. No one, including civil rulers, gets away with anything at all (Ec 5:8). Believe it!
- C. The LORD Jehovah is not surprised, hindered, or questioned by men (Dan 4:35).
- D. He uses civil rulers, no matter how high and mighty, as His puppets (Is 10:5-19).
- E. He laughs at their best efforts against Him (Psalm 2:4; 37:13; 59:8; II Kgs 19:21).
- F. He raises up kings and puts them down when He chooses (Daniel 2:21; 4:17).
- G. This point, like some others to follow, could be an extensive study, like the links.
- H. Sermon, *Dominion of God* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/god/dominion-of-god/sermon.php>.
- I. Sermon, *King of Kings* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/king-of-kings.pdf>.

2. **Government Is from God.**

- A. Civil government is as much by God as marriage, parents, employment, church.
- B. God calls civil rulers gods to emphasize them (Ex 22:28; Ps 82:1,6; Jn 10:34-36).
- C. God ordained their offices, the persons in the offices, and their spirits at any time.
- D. Civil rulers are by God's appointment, and rebellion is against God (Ro 13:1-7).
- E. Civil rulers are by God's appointment, and God and man shall damn all rebels.
- F. All authority is from God; He invented it and defined it; it is beautiful, comforting, efficient, productive, etc. Only willful scorners object against it.
- G. Government is not BY the people or OF the people ... and the only governments truly FOR the people are the ones that are BY and OF God!
- H. For more Bible detail about authority ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/authority-ordinance-of.pdf>.
- I. For more detail about Romans 13:1-7 ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/romans-thirteen.pdf>.

3. **Evil Rulers Deserve Honor.**

- A. An evil ruler does not alter God's ordination of office, person, or present spirit.
- B. Every ruler in every sphere is evil when compared to God, but their rule stands.
- C. God uses both good and bad rulers in any sphere, and we are duty bound to obey.
- D. God raises up the basest of men over nations and empires (Daniel 2:21; 4:17).
- E. Children and wives want to know what to do; we tell them to honor the office.
- F. A froward boss, far from justifying contempt, creates opportunity (I Pet 2:18-21).
- G. Compare about foolish husbands ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/when-your-husbands-a-fool-2.pdf>.

It does not matter how wicked a government or ruler might be in legislation, philosophy, civil conduct, or personal conduct. John and all Israel knew of Herod's infidelities, but this did not reduce their civil responsibility to Herod at all. Neither are children relieved of honoring their parents due to parental sin. God will judge rulers for their wicked laws, thoughts, and deeds. Christians still give them honor and obedience to the full extent of their office (I Pet 2:13-17). It does not matter how they spend tax revenues, even for abortion or crucifying Jesus, you still render unto Caesar what is Caesar's in all taxes (Matt 22:15-22; Rom 13:1-7).

4. **God Delivers His People.**

- A. Trusting God brings deliverances (I Chron 5:20; II Chron 13:18; 16:8; Ps 18:29).
- B. He can and will do most improbable things as rescues from Egypt and Babylon.
- C. Do not frustrate Him, since He told you He rewards those with faith (Heb 11:6).
- D. Recall past deliverances (Psalm 22:4; 34:22; 44:1; 46:11; 68:35; 105:13-15).
- E. From Peter in prison to Paul in Jerusalem, in Caesarea, in Rome, and many more.
- F. He hears His people sighing and saves them as needed (Ex 2:23-25; Ezek 9:4-6).
- G. If God could rescue Rahab from the overthrow of Jericho, He can easily save us.
- H. Nebuchadnezzar/Nebuzaradan protected Jeremiah/Ebedmelech (Je 39:11 – 40:6).
- I. The Lord warned His followers about Jerusalem's ruin and shortened the siege.
- J. We can rejoice in God even during great economic calamity (Habakkuk 3:17-19).
- K. God will not give His people more than they can bear or escape (I Cor 10:13).
- L. He hears our sighing (Ps 12:5).

5. **Worry Never Helps Anything.**

- A. It never alter circumstances, for worry is only internal dysfunctional thoughts.
- B. But it steals peace, destroys faith, and causes indecision (Ec 11:3-6; Matt 14:30).
- C. Refer to Rule A above, the panacea for perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3-4; Phil 4:6-7).
- D. A serenity prayer works: *God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.*
- E. Worrying about politics is like worrying about the Weather Channel ... vanity!
- F. Christians are not Chicken Little; they should be bold and confident in God.

6. **Faith Will Be Rewarded.**

- A. It means nothing for you to think or say that you believe God is fully sovereign.
- B. How will you respond to the other candidate or party winning? With full respect?
- C. How will you respond to your candidate or party winning? With Messiah hope?
- D. Where do you rank your spiritual privileges as God's son to being an American?
- E. Do you spend more effort and time following politics or preaching and prayer?
- F. A real measure of faith and virtue is doing what is right when tempted to wrong.
- G. The Bible promises rewards throughout (Ps 1:1-3; 19:11; 37:37; Jas 1:25; etc.).

7. **Our Duty Is Prayer.**

- A. God called for prayer for oppressive enemy Babylon's peace in OT (Jer 29:4-7).
- B. God called for prayer for oppressive enemy Rome's peace in NT (I Tim 2:1-3).
- C. We must give thanks for them and their benefits and pray, supplicate, and intreat.

- D. Nehemiah prayed before and during his approach to Artaxerxes (Ne 1:4,11; 2:4).
- E. Esther and the Jews fasted and prayed before approaching Ahasuerus (Esth 4:16).
- F. It is the most powerful thing we can do for anything, especially civil government.
- G. For encouragement in prayer in general ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/confidence-in-prayer.pdf>.

8. **Prayer Without Anxiety Works.**

- A. Prayer works without carefulness and with thanksgiving (Phil 4:6-7; Dan 3:16).
- B. Doubters shall not receive anything, for prayer only works by faith (James 1:6-8).
- C. God wants your trust that He will take care of you well (Matt 6:25-34; Nah 1:7).
- D. After doing your reasonable best, even at the polls, go to bed (Psalm 127:1-2).
- E. Believing prayer receives God's blessing, even in government (Luke 11:9-13).

9. **Rulers Answer to God.**

- A. No matter how high a ruler gets, he will answer to Him much higher (Eccl 5:8).
- B. God judges all rulers, and He holds them accountable for being gods (Ps 82:1-8).
- C. There are watchers – holy angels – that will order their destruction (Dan 4:13,17).
- D. Consider how employees and then masters also are addressed by God (Ep 6:5-9).
- E. God used Sennacherib to chasten Israel, but then He judged him (Isaiah 10:12).
- F. There is a King over all kings and a Prince over all Kings. Do you know them?

10. **Strangers and Pilgrims Here.**

- A. We are not dependent nor in love with citizenship. We seek a heavenly country.
- B. Abraham showed us and Peter taught us this rule (Heb 11:13; I Peter 2:11-17).
- C. We do not trust human rulers or government, so we are not in despair over faults.
- D. We do not get attached to things here, so no disappointment when they disappear.
- E. We set our affection on things above to love His appearing (Col 3:1-4; II Ti 4:8).

11. **Keep Perspective by History.**

- A. Our national situation is still the best combination of blessings ever experienced.
- A. The most-educated political scientist or theorist does not know true world history.
- B. Your divine library covers 6000 years, showing God's deliverance of His people.
- C. Whether individuals or nations, or destruction of all enemies, God wrote it down.
- D. You do not need their revisionism, as they try to make history fit their agendas.
- B. Current events are minor – their wicked lives and legislation affects only them.
- C. Compare Israel, Roman wars, Islam wars, Civil War, WWII, 60's, city riots, etc.
- F. King James was far more abusive of Christians, yet he gave us our KJV Bibles.
- D. Recent American perspective (53-147) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/living-under-obama-2.pdf>.
- E. Living under Caesar and others (36-49) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/living-under-obama-2.pdf>.

12. **Internet Creates Foolish Fear.**

- A. World events unknown before are diced, sliced, and spun to sell web advertising.
- B. Details and opinions of every Tom, Dick, and Harry are polished and published.

- C. Anyone can publish anything, which is bad, for every man is a liar (Romans 3:4).
- D. Social media allows lies and slander that just recently were impossible to spread.
- E. Extreme liberals or conservatives, communists or preppers, can spread their lies.
- F. Snake oil salesmen were very limited in the past, but now there is no limit at all.
- G. For a general warning about the Internet ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/today/ever-learning.php>.

13. **Carnal Christians Are Threat.**

- A. Paul ignored politics for compromise of doctrine, practice, zeal (II Ti 3:1 – 4:4).
- B. Think of all the fears or worries of this generation, not even one mattered to Paul.
- C. Do you fully grasp that Paul's concept of perilous times was different than yours?
- D. Why focus or think on anything else ... if God has revealed the real danger to us?
- E. For a detailed exposition ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/exposition/perilous-times/sermon.php>.

14. **We Have Insider Information.**

- A. Every nation has classified information, involving military, national security, etc.
- B. We know things about political angels they cannot even imagine (I Kgs 22:19-23; Da 4:13,17; 10:9,20; 12:1; Acts 12:5-11,20-25; II Pet 2:10-12; Jude 1:8-10; etc.).
- C. We know the most influential, persuasive power in rulers and voters (Pr 21:1; Ex 4:21; 12:36; 14:8; 34:24; De 2:30; Josh 11:20; Ezra 7:27; Is 10:5-19; Rev 17:17).
- D. God's children knew Cyrus the Persian would overthrow Babylon (Is 44:24-28; 45:1-4), and about Greece while they were still goat herders (Da 8:19-21), and about the rise of Rome and the RCC before Romulus and Remus (Dan 7:15-22), and about the origin of the European Union before there was Europe (Re 17:17)!
- E. If you can read it, no matter the source, it is not classified or insider information.
- F. You never know what is really going on with your local sheriff or the president.

15. **Angels Are Active Politically.**

- A. Gabriel told about fallen angels working in Persia and Greece (Daniel 10:13,20).
- B. The angel of the LORD Jehovah killed Herod Agrippa I for pride (Ac 12:20-25).
- C. God sent a lying spirit to Ahab's prophets to get him killed (I Kings 22:19-23).
- D. Our God is the *Lord of hosts* (235) ... *God of hosts* (39) ... *LORD of Sabaoth* (2).
- E. The hosts of heaven are all the angelic armies serving God for us (Heb 12:22-24).
- F. There are angels assigned, and mighty ones at that, to the church (Daniel 12:1)
- G. They are watchers over political and minor things (Dan 4:13,17; I Cor 11:10).
- H. God sends them to mark those to be saved and to slaughter others (Ezek 9:1-11).
- I. For much more about the angels of God ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/angels-of-god.pdf>.
- J. More about slaughtering angels ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/an-angel-with-an-inkhorn.pdf>.

16. **God Manipulates Rulers' Hearts.**

- A. The king's heart is in His hand; He directs it wherever He chooses (Pr 21:1; Ex 4:21; 12:36; 14:8; 34:24; De 2:30; Josh 11:20; Ezra 7:27; Is 10:5-19; Rev 17:17).
- B. He hardened Pharaoh's heart to the ruin of both him and Egypt (Ex 4:21; 14:4).

- C. He can turn the most oppressive and powerful monarch into a beast (Dan 4:16).
- D. Sennacherib or Europe's kings, He uses them like puppets (Is 10:5-19; Re 17:17).
- E. His ways are not visible, explainable, or quantifiable ... especially to you or me.
- F. He even hardened David's heart to number Israel to kill 70,000 Jews (II Sa 24:1).
- G. Abimelech did not touch Sarah for God's withholding him in secret (Gen 20:3-6).
- H. Ahasuerus had insomnia to read Persia's chronicles about Mordecai (Esth 6:1-2).
- I. God's total dominion of men ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/god/dominion-of-god/sermon.php>.

17. **God Manipulates Citizens' Hearts.**

- A. Simple reasoning from the greater of kings to the lesser of citizens easily proves the point: this is logical reasoning of the Bible (Jn 13:14; 15:18-20; I Cor 6:1-3).
- B. God manipulated the citizens of Egypt (Ex 12:36) and also of Canaan (Ex 34:24).
- C. God turned soldiers to kill their soldier buddies (Judges 7:22; II Chron 20:23-25).
- D. Trends as perverse as sodomy and transsexuals are clearly included (Ro 1:18-27).
- D. God can bring about revival or blinding by His heart work (Jer 31:33; Is 44:18).
- E. He opens hearts for truth or sends delusion for lies (Acts 16:14; II Thess 2:9-12).
- F. When a nation is moved toward folly or wisdom, there is divine power behind it.
- G. God's total dominion of men ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/god/dominion-of-god/sermon.php>.
- H. Author of Confusion ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/god/is-god-the-author-of-confusion/sermon.php>.

18. **The Bible Ignores Politics.**

- A. Why this outline? God rejects politics as something to think, act, or worry about!
- B. This outline is to turn it over to God other than the duties or wisdom He inspired.
- C. See two evils – man's curiosity for things above him + today's communication.
- D. Most countries connect nationalism and religion in a way the Bible totally rejects.
- E. Most Baptist churches in America have an American flag close beside the pulpit.
- F. Christianity and Americanism are not twins of any kind and not cousins either!
- G. Many of the older members grew up with parents obsessed about political junk.
- H. They could not do anything; they accomplished nothing; they were distracted.
- I. Most men believe the lie he has valuable ideas of how government should run.
- J. Most men are rebels and given to change and want to do things to change rulers.
- K. The Bible warns against desiring change or meddling with them (Pr 24:21-22).
- L. The Bible records political history, for God judging or using to profit His people.
- M. Other than praying, paying, and honoring, basic duties to authority, we ignore it.
- N. No rule or example exists to read, learn, or worry about national or world events.
- O. One of the biggest wastes of time is to read about what occurs in Washington.
- P. It is a very subtle and sinister distraction to think and worry about political junk.
- Q. Such stuff is often so limited in perspective and vile in slant, you lie to yourself.
- Q. You have duties to focus on (149-155) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/living-under-obama-2.pdf>.
- R. A mighty man has little time for politics ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/a-mighty-man.pdf>.

John the Baptist, Jesus, and Paul ignored incredible political upheaval to preach gospel.

Words in a presidential campaign are generally maneuvering to gain popularity in our pacify-the-peasants political process.

19. **Godliness Is Our Duty.**

- A. Patriotic vigilance is for those outside the kingdom of God for an earthly nation.
- B. Both kings and people are saved by righteousness (Da 4:27; Pr 14:34; Hos 13:1).
- C. Ten righteous souls could have saved Sodom, but there was only one (Ge 18:32).
- D. Nations that forget God are turned into hell (Ps 9:15-20; 50:16-22; Job 20:4-29).
- E. Even single righteous men turned away God's wrath (Jer 15:1; Eze 14:14; 22:30).
- F. Righteousness gains security and blessing like little else (Pr 16:7; Phil 2:14-16).
- G. For the power of a righteous life ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/power-of-a-righteous-life.pdf>.

20. **Life Is Very Short.**

- A. We must redeem time: buy it back by careful use of it (Eph 5:14-16; Prov 18:1).
- B. Political worry is very wasteful, for you can do nothing about things you learn.
- C. Political reading is very distracting, for it takes you from more important duties.
- D. Political learning is very tempting; it causes angst, anger to curse the government.
- E. Jeremiah and Paul said to enjoy life (Jeremiah 29:4-7; I Timothy 2:1-3; 6:17-19).
- F. We are not near the kind of distress that Corinth and other saints had (I Cor 7:26).
- G. Don't worry – be happy – your anxiety proves your lack of faith or real purpose.

21. **All Events Are Good.**

- A. God only allows events to praise Him, including evil (Ps 76:10; Am 3:6; Is 45:7).
- B. No event occurs outside His perfect will, no matter where you look or consider.
- C. Whether an election, a war, an assassination, or other political event; trust God.
- D. Evil acts are sin to involved sinners, but God works His secret will (Deut 29:29).
- E. You cannot see even one percent of an infinite number of good reasons or results.
- F. God made even the wicked and their judgment for Himself; believe it (Pr 16:4).
- G. Therefore, there is no reason for confusion, fear, or worry – only a right response.
- H. Proverb commentary for 16:4 ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/16_04.php.

22. **God Handpicks Each Ruler.**

- A. He raises up and puts down great kings, even if basest of men (Dan 2:21; 4:17).
- B. It does not matter if it is evil Pharaoh or Israel's first king (Ex 9:16; I Sam 10:24).
- C. If every office and ruler is there by God, we can have total confidence and trust.
- C. Both the office and the man/woman in it and their current state of mind is God's!
- D. They are called gods and God's children correctly and appropriately by Him (Ps 82:6).
- E. The problem occurs when you dislike a ruler's person, platform, or performance.
- F. This is even truer when you vote in an election, for your loss justifies your hate.
- G. We apply this axiom to our wives and children, so why resist higher civil rulers?
- H. A woman is not justified to hate a husband because she made the choice for him.
- I. For much more of God and authority ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/authority-ordinance-of.pdf>.

23. **Rulers Are God's ministers.**

- A. They are ministers for our good, like parents, husbands, pastors (Rom 13:3-6).
- B. Civil authority is an incredible creative ordinance of our God for man's benefit.
- C. No matter how evil, communist Russia and China still honor and protect citizens.
- D. Even tribes of savages usually have some civil authority to protect and provide.
- E. How do a trillion cars pass each other daily at fatal speeds with few accidents?
- F. How do you get to deduct mortgage interest and church giving from income?
- G. How do homeschoolers avoid compulsory education and still get college grants?
- H. When you fight city hall, you fight God and His wisdom, which is your folly!
- I. God called Nebuchadnezzar His servant many times over all nations (Jer 27:6-7).
- J. God called Cyrus the Persian His shepherd for the good He would do (Is 44:28).
- K. God used civil rulers to benefit His church e.g. Pharaoh, Artaxerxes, Nero, etc.
- L. For a detailed exposition of Romans 13 ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/romans-thirteen.pdf>.
- M. For much more of God and authority ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/authority-ordinance-of.pdf>.

24. **Angels Honor Human Rulers.**

- A. The angels, well above man's authority, do not rail on civil rulers (II Pe 2:10-12).
- B. If angels do not disrespectfully accuse human rulers, why do you (Jude 1:8-10)?
- C. By these two passages, we learn that angels honor both Satan and Adolph Hitler.
- D. Recall, Hitler was elected and got Germany work, pride, power, WWI relief, etc.
- E. Angels should see your honor of authority, since they look for it (I Cor 11:10).
- F. A spy or careless word could get you in trouble, but what of an angel (Ec 10:20)?
- G. If they are watchers over our government, let them see our virtue (Dan 4:13,17).
- H. For a detailed commentary of II Peter 2 ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/second-peter-two.pdf>.

25. **David Mocked Political Worry.**

- A. David knew firsthand the threat of ungodly rulers, but he knew God was Judge.
- B. He wrote Psalms to comfort the fearful and warn patriots, if they would read and believe (Ps 2:1-12; 11:1-7; 27:1-3; 46:1-11; 75:1-10; 82:1-8; 83:1-18; 146:3-10).
- C. He prayed for help and admitted vulnerability to enemies. He succeeded them all.
- D. He honored profane Saul during his life on many occasions and even at his death.
- E. This is the man after God's own heart, and we should follow his wise example.
- F. He knew about rulers; His Son reigns forever (Psalm 45 & 101; II Sam 23:1-7).

26. **Cast Down, Not Destroyed.**

- A. Shushan was perplexed by the decree of genocide from Ahasuerus (Esther 3:15).
- B. Paul ruled his trouble, perplexity, persecution, and discouragement (II Cor 4:8-9).
- C. When David was desperate, he encouraged himself in the Lord (I Samuel 30:6).
- D. We are specifically told not to marvel about knowledge of oppression (Eccl 5:8).
- E. You will see governmental error and oppression (Ec 4:1). How will you respond?
- F. No one, including civil rulers, gets away with anything at all (Ec 5:8). Believe it!
- G. If you get destroyed by political news, you have little to no faith. Grow up!

H. *When Things Seem Hopeless* ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/when-things-seem-hopeless.pdf>.

27. **We Deserve Much Worse.**

- A. America deserves worse than she is getting; God is merciful (Ps 103:10; 78:38).
- B. God has not dealt with America after its many sins or according to its iniquities.
- C. Consider the wicked and their rebellion against much knowledge in America.
- D. They greedily pursue and celebrate abortion, casual sex, debt, evolution, irreverence, rebellion, sodomy, swearing, transgendering, labor unions, etc., etc.
- E. Consider the so-called Christians in America and how they have compromised.
- F. They fulfill each clause of the perilous times prophecy very well (II Ti 3:1 – 4:4).
- G. God is clearly very longsuffering, and we should give thanks for our tranquility.
- H. If judgment has not come yet, then it will, and the reprieve is for our repentance.

28. **Lip Service May Help.**

- A. Immigrants in Israel avoided God's lions by outward religion (II Kgs 17:24-33).
- B. There is no comfort to presume on the lesson; God expects more (Ezek 20:39).
- C. Our Marines sing, *There is no God like Jehovah*, before going to Iraq ([here](#)).
- D. There is no nation on earth that would have such a demonstration of truth.
- E. God's laws on any subject will work, even if practiced by religious pagans.
- F. For example, think child training, which works no matter the parental faith.
- G. To the degree pagan nations practice God's civil laws, they will advance.

29. **Perfect Peace in Jehovah.**

- A. Keep your mind on Him; there is no other hope or strength (Is 26:3-4; Phil 4:6-7).
- B. Compare to #1 of these rules: He has absolute rule over all; you should not fear.
- C. There is no peace learning about conspiracies, legislation, military programs, etc.
- D. Peace for a child of God walking in the Spirit comes by very different means.
- E. If you derive peace from political information, you are either reprobate or carnal.
- F. Further, such information is more spin than truth, and it puts trust in mere men.
- G. It was not wise for God's kings to number their armies (II Sam 24:3; I Sam 14:6).
- H. If you want to read a little about such junk, make sure you read the Bible more.
- I. Delight in God brings greater joy and blessing than politics (Ps 37:4; Je 9:23-24).
- J. Hope is scripture, not men, their accomplishments, or their predictions (Ro 15:4).

30. **Changers and Meddlers Sin.**

- A. We fear God and rulers; they are elevated by Him like Him (Pr 24:21-22; Ps 8:6).
- B. They are so closely connected that to resist one is to resist the Other (Ro 13:1-2).
- C. Changers push revolution to change authority – whether God or the civil ruler.
- D. Meddlers are those that read or listen to the propaganda ideas of such changers.
- E. Both kinds of men will be destroyed severely – revolutionaries and followers.
- F. Jacob cursed Simeon and Levi on his deathbed, stating opposition (Gen 49:5-7).
- G. We should make every effort to distance ourselves and to despise civil revolt.

- H. No matter if large or popular, stay away from changers and meddlers (Ex 23:2).
- I. For Proverbs 24:21 commentary ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/24_21.php.
- J. For Proverbs 24:22 commentary ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/24_22.php.

31. **Cursing Rulers Is Sin.**

- A. It is against God's ordinance and angels; it can come out for trouble (Ec 10:20).
- B. Speaking evil of dignities is N.T. words for the sin (II Pet 2:10-12; Jude 1:8-10).
- C. Avoid most of the world's events and news to avoid its spin raising your anger.
- D. By height, there is less reason to curse Adolf Hitler than your children curse you.
- E. Do not speak evil of dignitaries – you do not have the right or wisdom to do so.
- F. It is not your place to condemn (Job 34:16-19; Ex 22:28; Pr 17:26; I Peter 2:17).
- G. Paul was confronted on this issue; he repented instantly and publicly (Ac 23:1-5).
- H. Stop thinking your wife should reverence you, if you disrespect your civil rulers.
- I. Kids were killed for cursing, mocking, or disrespect (Pr 20:20; 30:17; De 27:16).
- J. Speaking evil of dignities, II Pet 2:10-12 ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/second-peter-two.pdf>.
- K. Honoring parents and God's response ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/honoring-parents2.pdf>.

32. **Reap What You Sow.**

- A. God is not mocked; He will return to a man disrespect he shows rulers (Gal 6:7).
- B. God likes to reward in kind – He can cause rebellion to you (Ps 7:14-16; 9:16).
- C. Remember how Haman and his sons died, and choose not to build any gallows.
- D. Why should your wife or children obey and reverence you, if you despise rulers?
- E. Solomon learned by observation (Pr 24:30,32). Check out the families of patriots.

33. **Analyze by Five Spheres.**

- A. There are five spheres of authority – parents, husband, master, magistrate, pastor.
- B. An easy way to measure conduct is to apply questioned activity to other spheres.
- C. Questions may be confusing or formidable; this rule often clears the air quickly.
- D. How should you talk about rulers? What do you want from wife and children?
- E. How or when can you resist rulers? When should your wife or children resist?
- F. Should men organize civil rebellion? Compare employees, soldiers, or a church.
- G. What should attitude, speech, or conduct be toward any or all authority spheres?
- H. God used such logic comparing relationships (Mal 1:6; Jn 13:13-17; Heb 12:9).

34. **Yielding Will Trump Rebellion.**

- A. Yielding trumps rebellion toward authority (Proverbs 16:14; 25:15; Eccl 10:4).
- B. Even angry authority can be pacified, and God honors those honoring His offices.
- C. You know intuitively and surely how to respond to a state trooper stopping you.
- D. We certainly and correctly advise children, wives, and employees to gladly do so.
- E. God and angels love authority, and you will be blessed for obedience and honor.
- F. How can we pray and expect results, if we are guilty of civil disrespect of rulers?
- G. In 2016, we had eight years history of yielding, so God gave us Donald Trump!

35. **Rebellion Is Last Resort.**

- A. Disobedience against authority in any sphere is a last resort over meek yielding.
- B. When wicked rise, godly men hide rather than fight (Pr 28:12,28; Judges 6:11).
- C. Yielding is better than civil disobedience; it pacifies rulers (Eccl 10:4; Pr 16:14).
- D. Paul did not resist the governor of Damascus to preach – he fled (II Co 11:32-33).
- E. A general rule is to submit until life is at stake i.e. midwives, Moses' parents, etc.
- F. See sermon outline for justifiable resisting ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/romans-thirteen.pdf>.

36. **Prayer Is Most Powerful.**

- A. Prayer is the most powerful thing you do in any part of life, especially politics.
- B. Civil rulers are out of your reach and are carefully guarded and honored by God.
- C. But those same rulers are manipulated by God according to His sovereign will.
- D. By prayer you can move God to move them, for we are His children, not them.
- E. Think Hezekiah, Daniel, Esther, Nehemiah, church for Peter (Ac 12:1-11,18-25).
- F. Hate worry, fussing, fear, disrespectful petitions, confidence in voting, study past necessary, demonstrations, writing campaigns, whining, organizing, etc.
- G. We should connect civil honor and praying to the election results or stop praying.
- H. For more about power of prayer ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/power-of-prayer-slides.pdf>.
- I. For more about power of prayer ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/power-of-prayer.pdf>.

37. **Only One Real Messiah.**

- A. President-elect Trump is not a Messiah in any sense of the Bible concept or word.
- B. It is a foolish shame when men will corrupt the Bible to present him as a messiah.
- C. There are no prophecies or even hints in the Bible about President-elect Trump.
- D. There is one Messiah – Jesus Christ the Son of God (Dan 9:25-26; Jn 1:41; 4:25).
- E. David foretold a perfect ruler, and Paul used it (II Sam 23:3-5; Ps 45:7; Heb 1:9).
- F. He is called Faithful and True (Rev 19:11), and He alone is God's glorious King.
- G. We are not to put trust in princes but rather in God that created them (Psalm 146).

38. **Voting Avoids Tempting God.**

- A. Sometimes Christians have difficulty deciding whether they will even vote or not.
- B. Tempting God, a sin, includes neglecting means He gave us to presume on Him.
- C. Jesus did not presume on God to fall from the temple; He used stairs (Mat 4:5-7).
- D. In a political system that allows a platform, party, and person to be chosen, use it.
- E. We do not sit around waiting for jobs to call us; to do so would be tempting God.
- F. Marriage is good, but Paul said to avoid it in a time of great distress (I Cor 7:26).
- G. God expects us to use means to avoid evil (Pr 22:3) or enhance profit (Pr 14:4).
- H. Great men in both testaments appealed to government for help outside principle.
- I. If you pray for your rulers but do not vote for your rulers, check your hypocrisy.

39. **We Have Two Parties.**

- A. Christians are supposed to have discernment and wisdom for such (Eccl 8:1-5).

- B. Paul knew the Jews' parties and played them against each other (Acts 23:6-11).
- C. Voting a third party candidate, no matter how principled, is for your opposition.
- D. A conservative voting for a third party candidate is actually voting for the DNC.
- E. The conservatives that voted for Ross Perot actually voted for President Clinton.
- F. There is very little godly principle in elections; the two parties will not have any.
- G. If you think principle is precious in voting, then write in Jesus Christ or yourself.
- H. If your state does not allow write-ins for president, move to maintain principle.

40. **Lesser of Two Evils.**

- A. There may not be a clear party or person to vote for, so you then limit the danger.
- B. It is here those without wisdom vote *principle*, while wise men vote *prudence*.
- C. It is not safer to vote *principle*, for you help the party least like you. See above.
- D. Lesser of two evils is holy wisdom – the only real *evil* is the candidate and party.
- E. Think about the word *evil* in light of Solomon's definition of prudence (Pr 22:3).
- F. Wisdom is not black and white *principle*; it sees real issues (Eccl 8:1-5; Jn 7:24).
- G. Wisdom is the power of right judgment in unique situations that takes great skill.
- H. Bible examples: Solomon with Bathsheba about Abishag; Joseph with Mary's pregnancy; David when Joab killed Abner; David when Joab killed Absalom; David in the three choices God gave him for numbering Israel; Paul's choice to stand trial in Rome, not Jerusalem; Joseph subsidized pagan priests and married a pagan; Daniel did similar in Babylon; Esther slept with a pagan; mercy to break the Sabbath for a snack; Naaman and Rimmon, many cases of prudent lying; etc.
- I. Learn Christian ethics for thinking ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-case-studies.pdf>.

41. **Vote Against the Godless.**

- A. Some find it difficult at times to choose between two candidates and their parties.
- B. However, without endorsing Republicans, there are clear differences between the two, which may be ascertained simply by reading the platforms of both parties.
- C. But there is another way to measure – which has godless America chosen to hate?
- D. In recent elections, the most godless elements of America were on only one side.
- E. When they unite in a two-party system, there must be some good in the opposite!
- F. Think abortionists, ACLU, actors, anarchists, child rebellion, college students, EU, evolutionists, feminists, Hollywood, humanists, illegal aliens, the media, MTV, Muslims, NEA, NOW, pornography, socialism, sodomites, unions, etc.
- G. When such elements line up against a candidate or party, it must have some truth.
- H. Nature also helps identify an evil agenda ... creation, sodomy, hair, parents, etc.
- I. Learn demographics. Vote against women and students (Isaiah 3:4-5,12), those with no Christian religion, those with most education, liberal socialist states, etc.
- J. Globalism is not scriptural or wise (Gen 10:5; De 32:8; Acts 17:26; Rev 20:8-9).

42. **Do Not Vote Character.**

- A. This rule or suggestion sounds incredibly contrary, but think through it carefully.

- B. What we mean by *character* is a man's personal and/or private moral conduct.
- C. We do not intend Bible Christianity, for such a man could hardly be nominated.
- D. In a two-party system, you will be limited to *character* the godless nation allows.
- E. If the word *character* is too much for you to overcome, substitute *personality*.
- F. This will never be true Bible virtue, for even conservatives will hate such a man.
- G. A man you think perfectly honest could also be a divorced, workaholic Buddhist.
- H. If the more able man is a Catholic and his opponent Baptist, how will you vote?
- I. Character is hard to prove and does not reveal ability, experience, or knowledge.
- J. From strictly a character standpoint, how could you pick between DJT and HRC?
- K. If you voted for DJT, then you already followed this suggestion to some degree.
- L. No man with a chance to win will be a Bible man, so you must cheat (Ex 18:21).
- M. Any man other than Joseph or Daniel will likely be vetted to show some follies.
- N. What if George Bush got drunk at Yale or Bill Clinton smoked weed at Oxford!
- O. How do you see the character of David? He was God's favorite and Israel's best.
- P. The private character of a candidate is worth less than his platform and promises.
- Q. The private character of a president affects the nation less than actual public rule.
- R. A president's effect is by party, performance, position, promises, appointees, etc.
- S. A national election is not for pastor, parent, or spouse – but a nation's civil ruler.
- T. We do not look to a president first and foremost for an example of private virtue.
- U. Jethro's and Jehoshaphat's requirements of leaders were for God's church-nation.
- V. Stockholders pick board members; is character or business acumen more crucial?
- W. If you owned a business, do you want ambition and experience or never ticketed?
- X. How do you see George Washington, our greatest leader? He was a Mason, etc.
- Y. Nursing fathers and mothers need not be Christians – only help us (Is 49:22-23).
- Z. You may vote character in the primaries, if you do it intelligently with foresight.

43. **Third Parties Are Vain.**

- A. Libertarians sound good if you are spiritually shortsighted – God is the victim!
- B. Constitutionalists live in the wrong century and overlook *de jure* versus *de facto*.
- C. Communists are atheist socialists that are contrary to most all the Bible teaches.
- D. Green lovers are pantheists that think Mother Earth is far more than a metaphor.
- E. A third party makes some feel good and noble, but they effectually vote opposite.
- F. God is able to raise up a third party or fourth party, but you should wait for it.

44. **Silent Majority or Minority.**

- A. It is a group of people that generally do not express political opinions publicly.
- B. America saw this by Donald Trump's victory against most pundits and pollsters.
- C. Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge used it, and Richard Nixon popularized it.
- D. Wise men by character and nature do not talk as much as fools babble (Ps 29:11).
- E. Wise men by prudence and knowledge know when to restrain opinions (Pr 22:3).
- G. Righteous men generally hide under evil rulers (Pr 11:10; 28:12,28; 27:12; 29:2).
- H. Sometimes it is a small minority, a very small remnant (I Kgs 19:18; Isaiah 1:9).

- I. Commentary for Proverbs 28:12 ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/28_12.php.
- J. Commentary for Proverbs 28:28 ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/28_28.php.