

Honor the King

Honour all men.  
Love the brotherhood.  
Fear God.  
Honour the king.

I Peter 2:17

# Honor the King

## The Sons of God on Earth



# **Thank You, God!**

For teaching us authority.  
For rewarding obedience.  
For prosperity under gods.  
For full victory by Thy Son.

# Honor the King

## The Sons of God on Earth

A Review of the Christian's Duties to Civil Authority



## **Current Event**

A well-known pastor wrote  
a public condemnation  
against a governor.

## Reminders

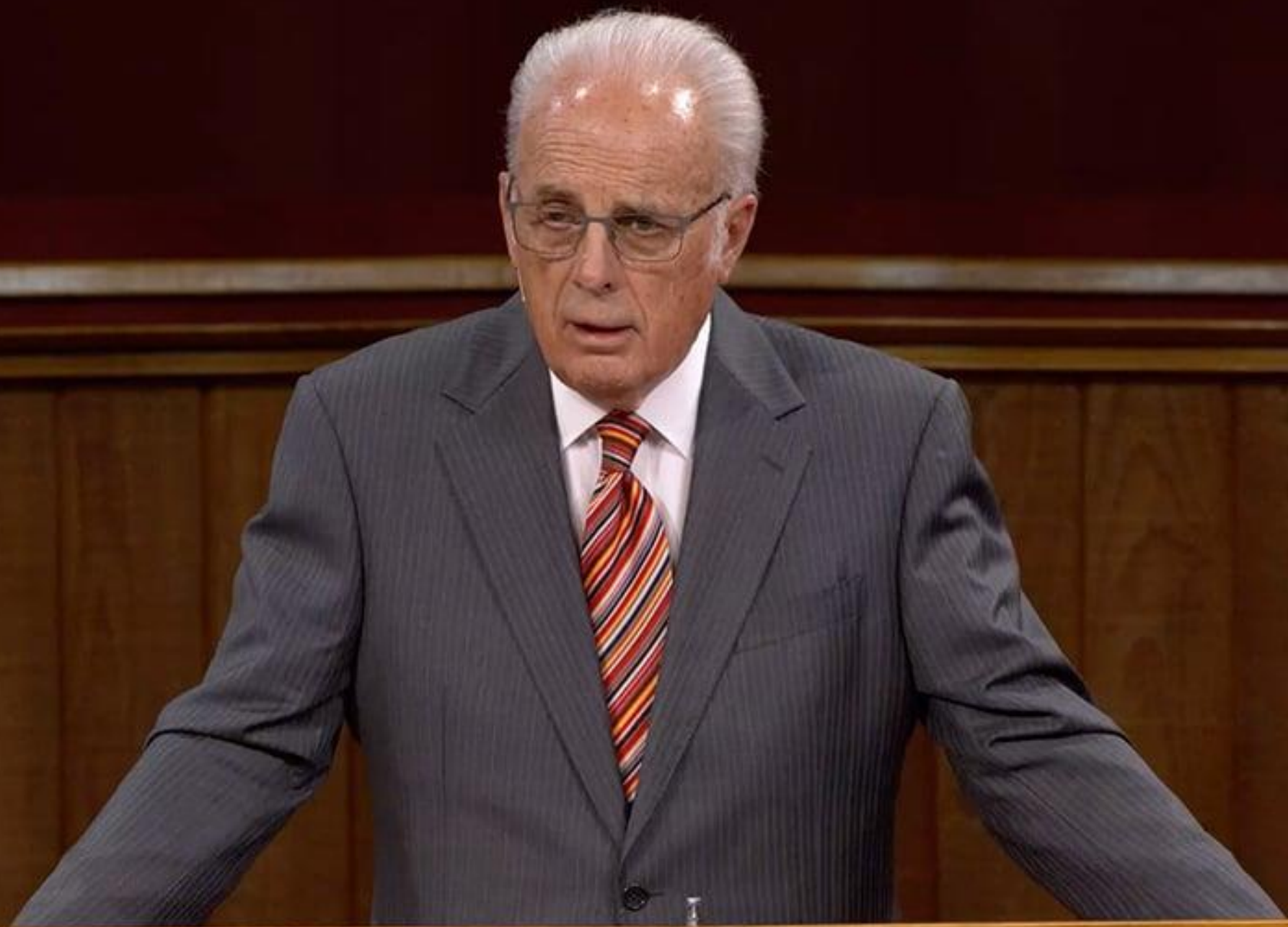
This Study Is Certainly Not Exhaustive

This Study Is Not to Criticize a Man

This Study Has Other Resources

This Study Is Not to Entertain

This Study Is For All Ages









Pastor John MacArthur of Grace  
Community Church sent a critical  
letter to California's Governor Gavin  
Newsom dated September 29, 2022.

<https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B220928>

<https://www.gty.org/media/PDF/Open%20Letter%20to%20Gavin%20Newsom.pdf>

Pastor MacArthur prepped his church  
and asked prayer for the governor's  
conversion before his sermon on  
September 25, 2022.

<https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B220928>

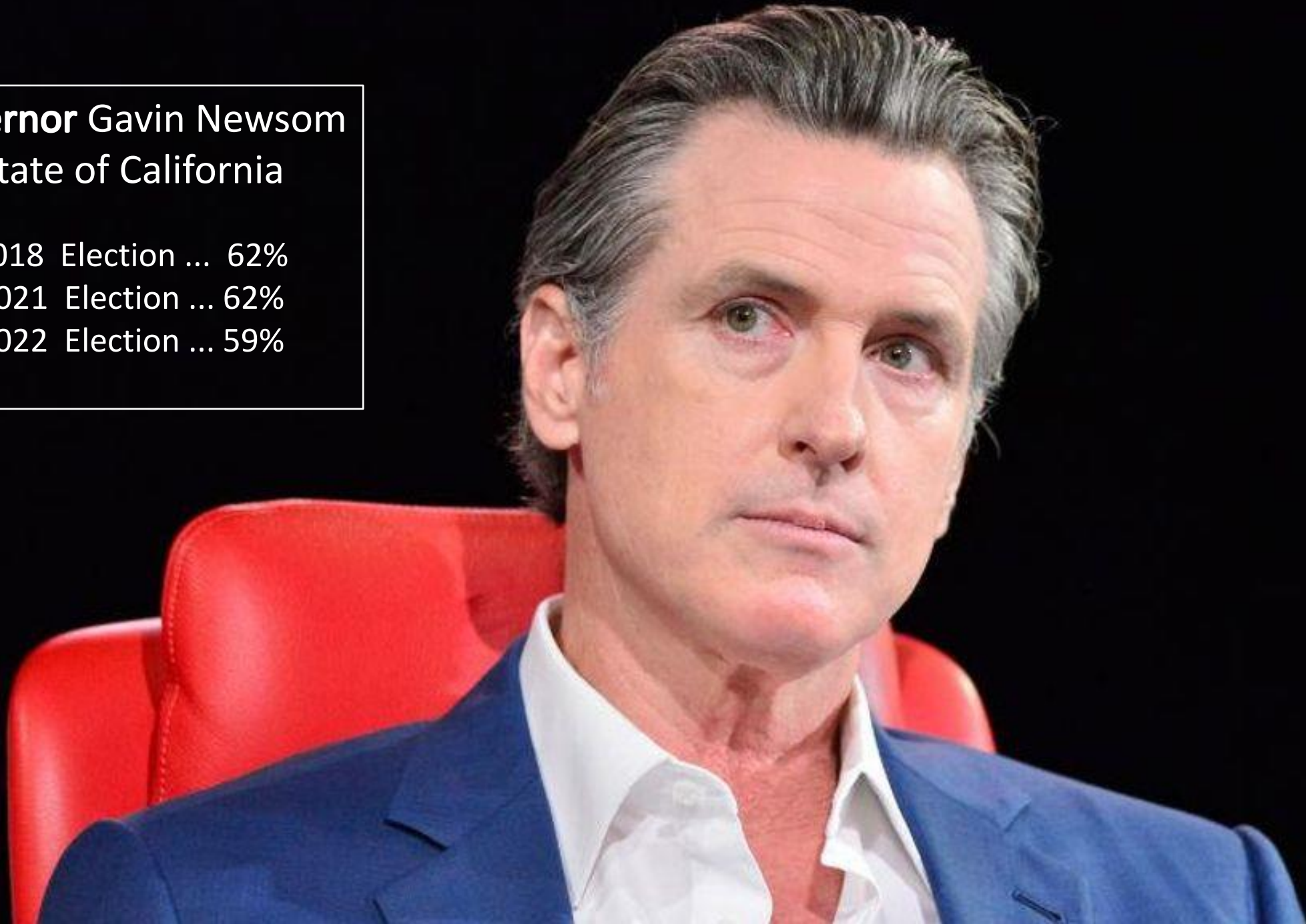
Pastor MacArthur preached a sermon,  
*Calling Rulers to Repentance*,  
on October 2, 2022.

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/81-131/calling-rulers-to-repentance>



**Governor Gavin Newsom**  
State of California

2018 Election ... 62%  
2021 Election ... 62%  
2022 Election ... 59%





An Open Letter to  
**GOVERNOR NEWSOM**



# NEED AN ABORTION? CALIFORNIA IS READY TO HELP.

LEARN MORE AT [ABORTION.CA.GOV](https://abortion.ca.gov)

*"Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no greater commandment than these." -Mark 12:31*

PAID FOR BY NEWSOM FOR CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR 2022

## Before reading the letter, know these:

1. It is a good letter given his understanding and the governor.
2. Main issue – no Bible command, profit, or wisdom to do it.
3. Main issue – it is not pastoral duty to blast/condemn rulers.
4. Main issue – God exalts civil rulers and their respect highly.
5. Main issue – it could have been done privately much better.
6. Main issue – it will cause more hatred and suggest sedition.
7. Main issue – our work is spiritual to elect, not for the world.
8. Main issue – this man does not deserve truth until asking.
9. For this review, we will ignore and overlook sermon words.

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 29, 2022

Sir,

Almighty God says in His Word, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Scripture also teaches that it is the chief duty of any civic leader to reward those who do well and to punish evildoers (Romans 13:1-7). You have not only failed in that responsibility; you routinely turn it on its head, rewarding evildoers and punishing the righteous.

The Word of God pronounces judgment on those who call evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20), and yet many of your policies reflect this unholy, upside-down view of honor and morality. The diabolical effects of your worldview are evident in the statistics of California's epidemics of crime, homelessness, sexual perversions (like homosexuality and transgenderism), and other malignant expressions of human misery that stem directly from corrupt public policy. I don't need to itemize or elaborate on the many immoral decisions you have perpetrated against God and the people of our state, which have only exacerbated these problems. Nevertheless, my goal in writing is not to contend with your politics, but rather to plead with you to hear and heed what the Word of God says to men in your position.

"Let all kings bow down before Him, all nations serve Him" (Psalm 72:11).

"He who rules over men righteously, who rules in the fear of God, is as the light of the morning when the sun rises" (2 Samuel 23:3-4).

"It is an abomination for kings to commit wicked acts, for a throne is established on righteousness" (Proverbs 16:12).

What God said to Cyrus is a truth you should take to heart: "I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:5-6).

In mid-September, you revealed to the entire nation how thoroughly rebellious against God you are when you sponsored billboards across America promoting the slaughter of children, whom He creates in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 45:9-12). You further compounded the wickedness of that murderous campaign with a reprehensible act of gross blasphemy, quoting the very words of Jesus from Mark 12:31 as if you could somehow twist His meaning and arrogate His name in

favor of butchering unborn infants. You used the name and the words of Christ to promote the credo of Molech (Leviticus 20:1–5). It would be hard to imagine a greater sacrilege.

Furthermore, you chose words from the lips of Jesus without admitting that in the same moment He gave the greatest commandment: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). You cannot love God as He commands while aiding in the murder of His image-bearers.

Psalm 50:16–19 speaks to people who pervert the Word of God for their own sinful ends:

But to the wicked God says,  
 “What right have you to recount My statutes  
 And to take My covenant in your mouth?  
 For you hate discipline,  
 And you cast My words behind you.  
 When you see a thief, you are pleased with him,  
 And you associate with adulterers.  
 You let your mouth loose in evil  
 And you harness your tongue for deceit.”

My concern, Governor Newsom, is that your own soul lies in grave, eternal peril. “Each one of us will give an account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12). One day, not very long from now, you will face that reality. Nothing is more certain. “It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). You will stand in the presence of the Holy God who created you, who is your Judge, and He will demand that you give an account for how you have flouted His authority in your governing, and how you have twisted His own Holy Word to rationalize it. As you look over the precipice of eternity, what will your answer be? When you look ahead of you and see that nothing awaits you but eternal misery—the just punishment for your sins—what will all the clever rationalizations and political talking points avail for you then? And by then it will be too late for any remedy or redemption. “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31).

My plea to you, Sir, is that you would not let it come to that—that you would not go to that day of judgment apart from receiving forgiveness and righteousness through faith in Christ alone. In Psalm 50, after rebuking the wicked for uttering God’s words in a profane way, Scripture makes this promise: “Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there will be none to deliver. He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving glorifies Me; and he who orders his way, I shall show the salvation of God” (vv. 22–23).

So there is salvation for those who repent. Christ purchased full redemption for all who will turn from wickedness, forsake their evil thoughts and actions, and trust fully in Him as Lord and Savior.

Our church, and countless Christians nationwide, are praying for your full repentance. Please respond to the gospel, forsake the path of wickedness you have pursued all your life, turn to Christ, ask for forgiveness, and use your office to advance the cause of righteousness (as is your duty) instead of undermining it (as has been your pattern).

Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Governor Newsom, "now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation"  
(2 Corinthians 6:2).

For the Master,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John MacArthur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John MacArthur  
Pastor-Teacher

## Let These Facts Be Known Well:

1. I respect many aspects of John MacArthur's ministry.
2. I pray for him every week without fail for many years.
3. I also know he holds numerous positions not correct.
4. He has the highest combination of influence and truth.
5. I will not take it on myself to nitpick his letter's details.
6. Though I strongly reject his use of the NASB (Acts 26:28).
7. I have done a reasonable job to not misrepresent him.
8. I only want to ask the Bible, *Should I write such letters?*
9. If I should not write such letters, what are God's rules?
10. If I should write such letters, to whom, how, and when?

## Here Is How We Shall Proceed:

1. I shared with you his open letter to Governor Newsom.
2. Let us first cover the reasons why I will not write such.
3. Then we must honestly answer his reasons for writing.
4. Then we should answer all other objections against us.
5. Then we can raise miscellaneous arguments against it.

# What Is Our Most Thorough Study about the Christian and Politics?

## *The Christian and Politics (2)*

23 Pages of Notes

81 Arguments

Many Links



# 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:** Exodus 22:28; Job 34:16-20; Psalm 2, 11, 75, 82, 146; Prov 16:14-15; 24:21-22; 15:15; 30:29-31; Eccl 8:1-5; 10:4,20; Isaiah 3:1-26; 10:5-19; 37:1-38; Jer 29:4-7; Dan 2:20-22; 4:1-37; 10:19-21; Matt 17:24-27; 22:15-22; Acts 23:1-5; 25:10-12; 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 is best.
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 a duty, thus we are still unprofitable (Luke 17:10).
7. Our prayer meeting last Sunday (before the election) was excellent, and we should connect 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 optimism 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.



## **Why Not Us?**

Why don't we start a  
writing campaign  
against rulers?

## President Joe Biden

What should I publicly criticize this ruler for along with going to hell?

I could rip his religion of the RCC.

Abortion is against God and RCC.

LGBTQXYZ is against God / nature.

Wiping out student loan debts of lazy panhandlers is financial sin.

Can I tell him he is basest (Dan 4:17)?



## Vice President Harris

What should I blast this ruler for?

Ignoring invasion across southern border?

Supporting LGBTQXYZ and child mutilation?

What verses might I use about silly women and the loss of men (Is 3)?

Can I remind her to be a keeper at home?



## Speaker Pelosi

What should I blast this ruler for?

Stock profits by insider information?

Ripping up Trump's speech on TV?

What verses might I use about silly women and the loss of men (Is 3)?

Can I remind her to be a keeper at home?



## **#1 ... No Bible Mandate to Do So**

I cannot find any command or example in the New Testament for bishops to rebuke rulers.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God,  
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof,  
for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect,  
thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

II Timothy 3:16-17

Preach the word;  
be instant in season, out of season;  
reprove, rebuke, exhort with  
all longsuffering and doctrine.  
For the time will come when  
they will not endure sound doctrine;  
but after their own lusts shall they heap  
to themselves teachers, having itching ears;  
And they shall turn away their ears from the truth,  
and shall be turned unto fables.

II Timothy 4:2-4



We have also a more sure word of prophecy;  
whereunto ye do well that ye take heed,  
as unto a light that shineth in a dark place,  
until the day dawn, and the day star  
arise in your hearts:

II Peter 1:19

## ***We Are Bible Christians!***

We only believe or do what the Bible clearly says.

Especially in matters as serious as civil rulers.

We do not care what all/any others will do.

We do not follow Protestant Reformers.

We cannot hunt and peck at scripture.

We need a mandate to blast princes.

Scripture is enough for perfection.

## **#2 ... We Are to Obey, Pay, and Pray**

By command and example, from Jesus to the apostles, the above three are our plain duty.

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.  
Whosoever therefore resisteth the power,  
resisteth the ordinance of God:  
and they that resist shall receive  
to themselves damnation.

Romans 13:1-2

Wherefore ye must needs be subject,  
not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

For for this cause pay ye tribute also:

for they are God's ministers,  
attending continually upon this very thing.

Render therefore to all their dues:

tribute to whom tribute is due;

custom to whom custom;

fear to whom fear;

honour to whom honour.

Romans 13:5-7

Put them in mind to be subject  
to principalities and powers,  
to obey magistrates,  
to be ready to every good work,

Titus 3:1

I exhort therefore, that, first of all,  
supplications, prayers, intercessions,  
and giving of thanks, be made for all men;  
For kings, and for all that are in authority;  
that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life  
in all godliness and honesty.  
For this is good and acceptable  
in the sight of God our Saviour;

I Timothy 2:1-3

### **#3 ... We Respect Them As Gods**

From a positive angle, we give them all honor in private and in public as God's ministers.



Thou shalt not revile the gods,  
nor curse the ruler of thy people.

Exodus 22:28

God standeth in the congregation of the mighty;  
he judgeth among the gods.

How long will ye judge unjustly,  
and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.

Psalm 82:1-2

I will praise thee with my whole heart:  
before the gods will I sing praise unto thee....  
All the kings of the earth shall praise thee,  
O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth.

Psalm 138:1-4

My son, fear thou the LORD and the king:  
and meddle not with them that are given to change:

Proverbs 24:21

## #4 ... We Must Not Despise Dignities

From a negative angle, we will not despise, curse, or revile them in thought or word.

Thou shalt not revile the gods,  
nor curse the ruler of thy people.

Exodus 22:28

## **Reville**

To degrade, abase.

To reproach or abuse.

To insult or offend.

To use abusive language.

To be insolent.

To despise or ridicule by speech.

Curse not the king, no not in thy thought;  
and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber:  
for a bird of the air shall carry the voice,  
and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

Ecclesiastes 10:20



Likewise also these filthy dreamers  
defile the flesh,  
despise dominion,  
and speaking evil of dignities.

Jude 1:8

## #5 ... We Do Not Condemn Princes

God so ordained authority that is not fit or right to out of hand condemn those over you.

Is it fit to say to a king, Thou art wicked?  
and to princes, Ye are ungodly?  
How much less to him that  
accepteth not the persons of princes,  
nor regardeth the rich more than the poor?  
for they all are the work of his hands.

Job 34:18-19

Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren,  
that he was the high priest:  
for it is written,  
Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

Acts 23:5

## #6 ... Kingdom Is Not of This World

Our goal is not to improve the world but the kingdom of God. We are never social activists.

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world:  
if my kingdom were of this world,  
then would my servants fight,  
that I should not be delivered to the Jews:  
but now is my kingdom not from hence.

John 18:36

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,  
but against principalities, against powers,  
against the rulers of the darkness of this world,  
against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:12

## **Social Activism**

Paul, very educated and well-traveled, was conspicuously silent about political intrigue, social projects, improving the world, minding earthly things, helping world literacy, etc., etc.



## **Political Nationalism**

The Bible is silent about working for candidates, exalting human constitutions, getting the vote out, ruler transition, or other political games, which may be a liberty as a least priority, but which reveal a heart minding earthly things, and is not what strangers and pilgrims do.

For many walk, of whom I have told you often,  
and now tell you even weeping, that they  
are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Whose end is destruction,  
whose God is their belly,  
and whose glory is in their shame,  
who mind earthly things.

Ephesians 6:12

Dearly beloved, I beseech you  
as strangers and pilgrims,  
abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;  
Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles....  
Submit yourselves to every ordinance  
of man for the Lord's sake:  
whether it be to the king, as supreme;  
Or unto governors....

I Peter 2:11-17

## **Proper Perspective**

Is to think Biblically and spiritually against the world, not with the world, for we are eternal enemies from the beginning. We do not care what the world thinks or does, for they are the enemies of God and damned forever and shall never be revived before their final destruction.

## **#7 ... Nothing Holy to Dogs or Pigs**

Jesus taught a rule of judgment about not giving good things of the gospel to reprobates.

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs,  
neither cast ye your pearls before swine,  
lest they trample them under their feet,  
and turn again and rend you.

Matthew 7:6

Speak not in the ears of a fool:  
for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

Proverbs 23:9

He that reproveth a scorner  
getteth to himself shame:  
and he that rebuketh a wicked man  
getteth himself a blot.

Proverbs 9:7



Finally, brethren, pray for us,  
that the word of the Lord may have free course,  
and be glorified, even as it is with you:  
And that we may be delivered  
from unreasonable and wicked men:  
for all men have not faith.

II Thessalonians 3:1-2

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said,  
It was necessary that the word of God  
should first have been spoken to you:  
but seeing ye put it from you,  
and judge yourselves unworthy  
of everlasting life, lo, we  
turn to the Gentiles.

Acts 13:46

And whosoever shall not receive you,  
nor hear your words, when ye depart out  
of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.  
Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable  
for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha  
in the day of judgment,  
than for that city.

Matthew 10:14-15

## **#8 ... Avoid More Conflict / Danger**

God and Solomon taught us to avoid foolish fighting with authority that can easily win.

When the wicked rise, men hide themselves:  
but when they perish, the righteous increase.

Proverbs 28:28

A prudent man foreseeth the evil,  
and hideth himself:  
but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Proverbs 22:3

Beware of dogs,  
beware of evil workers,  
beware of the concision.

Philippians 3:2

Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil:  
the Lord reward him according to his works:  
Of whom be thou ware also; for he  
hath greatly withstood our words.

II Timothy 4:14-15



## #9 ... Diplomacy Works Far Better

Many mock diplomacy as compromise, but it was used by warriors and taught as wisdom.

And Hiram king of Tyre  
sent his servants unto Solomon;  
for he had heard that they had anointed  
him king in the room of his father:  
for Hiram was ever a lover of David.

I Kings 5:1

By long forbearing is a prince persuaded,  
and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

Proverbs 25:15

If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee,  
leave not thy place;  
for yielding pacifieth great offences.

Ecclesiastes 10:4

## #10 ... Spheres of Authority Deny It

A rule to help find ethical wisdom for authority is to apply the questioned action to all spheres.

## **Test Actions Across All Five Spheres**

This tool of wisdom is very helpful to approve or disprove questionable conduct toward authority by testing it across one or more other spheres. For example, if you question an act toward civil rulers, would you want wife or children to do it?

## **What of Bosses?**

Should a Christian employee unhappy by a manager's bad conduct write all employees and customers an open letter blasting the manager but offering him eternal life?

## **What of Churches?**

Should a church member of GCC that believes he has spotted heresy or inconsistency write a critical open letter to all the members and family and friends elsewhere?



## **What of Parents?**

Should a child write his father listing his faults, flaws, coming condemnation, possible salvation, and mail it to all siblings, relatives, neighbors, father's colleagues, and church members?

## **What of Soldiers?**

Should a scared soldier that wants to win the war write an assessment of his general's personal and professional conduct and mail it to all soldiers, the general's superiors, the media, and even the enemy soldiers?

## **We Choose to “Err” With Authority**

Of course, we do not want to ever be in error, but just as we choose mercy in questionable situations, we also honor authority in such situations, because we understand God’s clear exaltation of authority, and we want those under our authority to do the same toward us. Indeed!



## **Why Did He?**

What were his reasons for  
writing his governor  
like he did?

## #1 ... Duty to Convert Rulers

He misinterpreted I Tim 2:1-4 as a mandate to pray for ruler salvation to stop Nero atrocities.

I exhort therefore, that, first of all,  
supplications, prayers, intercessions,  
and giving of thanks, be made for all men;  
For kings, and for all that are in authority;  
that we may lead a quiet and peaceable  
life in all godliness and honesty.  
For this is good and acceptable  
in the sight of God our Saviour;  
Who will have all men to be saved,  
and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

I Timothy 2:1-4

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Paul did not write, *Pray for ruler conversion*.

It says pray for quiet / peace, like Babylon.

He elsewhere prayed against sinful men.

Paul said God desires to save all kinds.

JM repeated it was “all kinds” thrice.

Salvation not key for quiet/peace.

Note the moderate Calvinism.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,  
unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have  
caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon;  
Build ye houses, and dwell in them ... that  
ye may be increased there, and not diminished.  
And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you  
to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it:  
for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

Jeremiah 29:4-7



## ***Wait a Minute!***

Even if the passage teaches prayer for ruler salvation, which it does not, how does prayer justify a critical open letter?

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Given the severe criticism of the governor in the letter, can you give thanks for this man, or not, so as to be in full agreement with I Tim 2:2?

## ***Wait a Minute!***

If you really want him saved, would not your chances go up if you wrote him in private rather than criticizing him in public?

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Jesus did not go after big fish in His ministry. Neither did Paul. If you think Agrippa, recall the nature of that trial and what was actually said.

## #2 ... Duty to Confront Rulers

He said confronting rulers is the “calling of the church throughout redemptive history.”

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Redemptive history we care about is in the Bible.  
Children will sometimes say, *Everyone's doing it.*  
There is no command for it, but many against.  
Martin Luther or John Knox are not ideals.  
Reformers were foolish baby-sprinklers.  
They hated or killed Baptists like us.  
O.T. prophets avoided capitals.  
N.T. prophets stayed home.

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Churches during the Dark Ages, New Testament churches, hid from enemies and kings, like Paul fleeing from Damascus in a basket. God gave them eagle wings to do so.

In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king  
kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison,  
desirous to apprehend me:  
And through a window in a basket  
was I let down by the wall,  
and escaped his hands.

II Corinthians 11:32-33



And to the woman were given  
two wings of a great eagle,  
that she might fly into the wilderness,  
into her place, where she is nourished  
for a time, and times, and half a time,  
from the face of the serpent.

Revelation 12:14

## #3 ... Great Commission Our Duty

What is the global mission of the church in the world? One thing and only one – the G.C.

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Jesus gave that charge to empowered apostles.  
JM used Matthew, Luke, Acts (NASB lost Mark).  
They fulfilled it perfectly by 70AD in scripture.  
Paul's epistles never charge it to any church.  
Pastoral epistles do not assign it to pastors.  
Churches have many other spiritual duties.  
The GC is not our mandate or our purpose.

<https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2016/the-great-commission/>

## #4 ... Gotta Get Em All to Call

The mandate of Romans 10:13 can only be fulfilled by called men preaching it (10:14-17).

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Paul prayed only for elect Israel to be saved (10:1).

He distinguished Israel from Israel (9:6-8,22-24).

Paul labored for the elect's sakes (II Tim 2:10).

His manner was very focused (Acts 17:1-4).

Jesus used parables to stop conversion!

Enemies were avoided (II Thess 3:1-2).

Truth withheld (Matt 7:6; Acts 13:46).

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

II Thessalonians 2:10-12

## **#5 ... Truth Weapon Against Rulers**

He misapplied gospel warfare in preaching to civil rulers, though for Paul it was Corinth!

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,  
but mighty through God to the pulling  
down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing  
that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and  
bringing into captivity every thought  
to the obedience of Christ;

And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience,  
when your obedience is fulfilled.

II Corinthians 10:3-6



## ***Wait a Minute!***

The spiritual warfare here is preaching the truth.  
But the strong holds are not Nero or civil rulers.  
The context before and after is strictly Corinth.  
The strong holds are stubborn, rebel opinions.  
Those with the ideas were church members.  
It allowed revenge after their repentance.  
This is pastoral ministry with members.

## #6 ... Stephen for Total Forgiveness

He sees Stephen's prayer for total forgiveness of the rulers killing him, and it saved Saul.

And cast him out of the city, and stoned him:  
and the witnesses laid down their clothes at  
a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.  
And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God,  
and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.  
And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice,  
Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.  
And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:58-60

## ***Wait a Minute!***

The inspired record says he prayed for “this sin.”  
To get Saul’s conversion by this means is wild.  
Saul was to be an apostle from the womb.  
Jesus said Paul kicked against His pricks.  
Jesus prayed for one sin (Luke 23:34).

## #7 ... Love of Enemies for Rulers

He applied Jesus' rule to love enemies as love and prayer for God's enemies, wicked rulers.

Ye have heard that it hath been said,  
Thou shalt love thy neighbour,  
and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies,  
bless them that curse you,  
do good to them that hate you,  
and pray for them which despitefully  
use you, and persecute you;

Matthew 5:43-48

## ***Wait a Minute!***

The context here is for loving personal enemies.  
David prayed against God's foes, not for them.  
Jesus was silent in Gethsemane for Caiaphas.  
Paul and Silas prayed for jailor to be saved?  
All of scripture makes prayer our calling?  
Pray for rulers without spiteful use?  
Context is our master. Personal only.

## #8 ... John and Paul Rebuked Kings

There are two large differences he overlooked  
– the men were special, and it was in private.



For Herod feared John, knowing that he  
was a just man and an holy,  
and observed him;  
and when he heard him,  
he did many things,  
and heard him gladly.

Mark 6:20

But Herod the tetrarch,  
being reproved by him  
for Herodias his brother Philip's wife,  
and for all the evils which Herod had done,

Luke 3:19

And after certain days,  
when Felix came with his wife Drusilla,  
which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul,  
and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance,  
and judgment to come, Felix trembled,  
and answered, Go thy way for this time;  
when I have a convenient season,  
I will call for thee.

Acts 24:24-25

## ***Wait a Minute!***

John did not write an open letter ripping Herod.

Paul did not write an open letter to a governor.

The conversations and warnings were private.

John was a very special man sent from God.

Paul was the greatest apostle, not a pastor.

Jesus did not die for confronting rulers.

Paul only did so privately (Acts 9:15).

## #9 ... 40 O.T. Men Confronted Kings

O.T. prophets were above kings and pastors,  
and they were in the same church with kings.

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Those Old Testament men that confronted kings were God's prophets, and they were very unique men with very special callings and assignments.

## ***Wait a Minute!***

God sent Moses to Pharaoh in a unique role.  
Moses was greater than any ordinary pastor.  
This was a conflict between God and Pharaoh.  
Do not overlook the mighty signs and wonders.  
This special man was honored by I AM THAT I AM.  
We can ask a ruler for favors without criticizing.

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Samuel was Saul's counselor, prophet, anointer.  
Samuel could call thunder and rain from heaven.  
Samuel hewed Agag in pieces when Saul did not.  
Samuel did not write an open letter ripping him.  
Samuel mourned and prayed for Saul instead.



## ***Wait a Minute!***

Nathan was David's counselor, prophet, preacher.  
Nathan even bowed to the king on his deathbed.  
Nathan did not write an open letter ripping him.

## ***O.T. Prophets Bad Example (1)***

1. They were both members of church-state, Israel.
2. Both were circumcised subjects to the covenant.
3. Both roles were part of the separation of power.
4. Moses and Samuel were unique prophet-judges.
5. The kings were separate from the Levites/priests.
6. Kings were put in office by the higher authority.
7. Kings could not participate in role of God's men.
8. Kings knew priests/prophets had word from God.
9. They most always had divine, specific messages.
10. Jesus combined king and priest for the first time.

## ***O.T. Prophets Bad Example (2)***

11. Prophet was above king, so sought to by kings.
12. Prophet in either testament was above pastor.
13. Yes we magnify God's offices, but not foolishly.
14. Prophets were above pastors (I Co 12:28; Ep 4:11).
15. Pastors do not have special roles like prophets.
16. Pastors do not have specific word like prophets.
17. We reject any idea of united church and state.
18. Unlike Israel, church and state are not related.
19. Christ's pastors have no relationship to rulers.
20. Christ's kingdom and America are unrelated.

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Elijah sent against Ahab was God's special calling.  
Jonah had a very unique role; no other did such.  
Jonah did not "save" a single person in Nineveh.  
Paul to Agrippa was a religious trial for his life.  
Joseph never rebuked Pharaoh for paganism.  
Daniel never rebuked his kings for paganism.  
Three Hebrew men rebelled for their faith.

## ***Wait a Minute!***

John the Baptist criticized Herod in private.  
Paul warned Felix in private at his request.  
Paul pressed Agrippa on trial for his life.  
This only is when I Peter 3:15 truly fits.  
John nor Paul blasted rulers publicly.  
Copying all in the Roman Empire.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:  
and be ready always to give an answer  
to every man that asketh you a reason  
of the hope that is in you with  
meekness and fear:

I Peter 3:15

## ***Wait a Minute!***

The O.T. prophets did not seek out foreign kings.  
An believing governor in USA is a foreign prince.  
They had no duty, leverage, or interest in kings.  
Their ministry was internal to nation/church.  
Jeremiah told ambassadors to surrender.  
Prophets were way over the Levites.  
Levites = Pastors (Nehemiah 8:7-8).  
Pastors = Levites (II Tim 2:15).



## **Bible Versions**

We will not nitpick words  
written or preached, but  
we must reject his Bible.



## ***We Must Compare Bibles***

He has used the NASB for 40-50 years.

NASB is the “begotten god” Bible (Jn 1:18).

Only the JW’s Bible, the NWT, is this corrupt.

Let us also compare Bibles about King Agrippa.

## KING JAMES VERSION

No man hath seen God at any time;  
the only begotten Son,  
which is in the bosom of the Father,  
he hath declared him.

John 1:18

NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE

No one has seen God at any time;  
the only begotten God  
who is in the bosom of the Father,  
He has explained Him.

John 1:18

KING JAMES VERSION

Then Agrippa said unto Paul,  
Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Acts 26:28

NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE

Agrippa replied to Paul,  
"In a short time you will persuade me  
to become a Christian."

Acts 26:28

## ***What? Are You Kidding?***

Agrippa committed to being a Christian?  
He knew while reading that it was incorrect.  
So he ascribed it to scorn to disguise the error.

## **#10 ... Always God's Plan to Confront**

This is circular reasoning to the extent he cannot prove such a mandate, which is great.

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart,  
which shall feed you with knowledge  
and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:15



And he gave some, apostles;  
and some, prophets;  
and some, evangelists;  
and some, pastors and teachers;  
For the perfecting of the saints,  
for the work of the ministry,  
for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:11-12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,  
but against principalities, against powers,  
against the rulers of the darkness of this world,  
against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:12

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world:  
if my kingdom were of this world,  
then would my servants fight,  
that I should not be delivered to the Jews:  
but now is my kingdom not from hence.

John 18:36

## ***Wait a Minute!***

Baptist pastors have only a spiritual war to fight.

The spiritual wickedness in high places is devils.

Principalities and powers are not governors.

God's armor does not include open letters.

Prayers here are for pastors / believers.

Political windmills are distractions.

Measure CM, JF, JVI, and MLK.



## **Are We Sure?**

What other objections to  
our position should we  
answer for honesty?

***But ... But ... Civil rulers are public servants and should be corrected.***

***Civil rulers are gods and should be treated with comparable reverence.***

***But ... But ... If pastors or people or someone does not correct, who will?***

***God will for certain. The Bible is the perfect manual for politics and all matters. Should your children correct you? Often? Harshly? Open letter?***

***But ... But ... What if a ruler asked for  
the truth and wisdom of Scripture?***

***In such a rare situation, we would  
gladly declare the truth thoroughly,  
just as Paul did with Governor Felix.***



***But ... But ... Should not any zealous N.T. pastor call a ruler to repentance?***

***Why would he do this without a duty for it, to take on unnecessary risk, without evidence of faith, and no private request like Paul, etc.***

***But ... But ... What about GCC  
beating L.A. County to assemble?***

***There were laws, precedents, and  
strong legality, like Paul's choices to  
invoke Roman citizenship, and there  
was also Hebrews 10:25 to assemble.***

***But ... But ... What about using tax revenues to pay for abortions?***

***Jesus taught paying taxes to Caesar that were used to pay the pagan Roman occupiers to crucify Him.***

***But ... But ... What about Jonah  
rebuking the king of great Nineveh?***

***There cannot be a greater difference  
from N.T. pastors ... should I do so in  
Moscow or Beijing or Pyongyang?  
Not a single soul was "saved."***

***But ... But ... What about Paul  
blasting Elymas with Sergius Paulus?***

***There cannot be a greater difference  
from N.T. pastors ... he was a sorcerer  
and got apostolic defeat for Gentiles.***

***But ... But ... Did not Paul correct the men or rulers of Athens on Mars Hill?***

***He was asked there by those men to speak of his religion. Was JM? GCC?  
Paul addressed them collectively.***

***But ... But ... Does not an ordained bishop have God's power to rebuke?***

***He has authority to rebuke hearers, but not civil officials, for he is under them as titles and other things prove.***

***But ... But ... Do you mean to say or imply a bishop is under a governor?***

***If we test it by titles, even Paul and Peter had to be called brethren. But Paul declared, "Most noble Festus."***



And as he thus spake for himself,  
Festus said with a loud voice,  
Paul, thou art beside thyself;  
much learning doth make thee mad.  
But he said, I am not mad,  
most noble Festus;  
but speak forth the words  
of truth and soberness.

Acts 26:24-25

***But ... But ... You made your choice  
because you are not as bold as JM.***

***Discretion is the better part of valor,  
if you can accept this Bible summary,  
like Paul and his basket at Damascus.  
Reasons to decline are by the Bible.***

***But ... But ... What about early church fathers and the Reformers?***

***We do not care (Ps 119:98-100,128). We question sources and circumstances; both groups compromised baptism; our reformers are John and apostles.***

***But ... But ... What about Moses' rule  
for kings to read the Bible (De 17:18-20)?***

***The kings were church members.  
Reading was a holy covenant duty.  
Ordinary Levites did not write them.***

***But ... But ... What about David  
rebuking all kings in Psalm 2?***

***Please say you jest. David prophesied  
of Christ to the elect church of God.  
He did not write to Shalmaneser.***

***But ... But ... What about Isaiah  
taunting Sennacherib in Isaiah 10?***

***Please say you jest. Isaiah prophesied  
for God to His church for comfort.  
He did not write Sennacherib.***

***But ... But ... What about Isaiah  
taunting Babylon in Isaiah 14?***

***Please say you jest. Isaiah prophesied  
of Cyrus to the elect church of God.  
He did not write to Belshazzar.***

***But ... But ... What about Isaiah  
taunting Sennacherib in a letter?***

***Please say you jest. Isaiah brought an  
answer from God to Hezekiah, which  
has never happened to any pastor.***



***But ... But ... What about the  
billboard that blasphemed?***

***How is it any different than President  
Bush in 2003 saying our God Jehovah  
and Islam's Allah are the same God?***

***But ... But ... What about the misuse  
of the Bible that is our inspired book?***

***It is misused daily and outlawed by  
civil rulers. Their entertainers and the  
media mock it. They and these others  
also swear by God and Jesus' name.***



**We Are Sure!**

We have questions or  
concerns that need  
to be answered.

***Think! ... We appreciate zeal and boldness, but it must be right zeal.***

***King Saul once tried to be zealous by killing Gibeonites Joshua had sworn to, earning God's severe judgment.***

***Think! ... Civil rulers answer to God,  
not to ordinary pastors of the N.T.***

***Marvel not at matters in a province  
like California (Eccl 5:8). God sees it all.  
He does not expect or need pastors.  
He warned rulers for our joy (Ps 82).***

***Think! ... Civil rulers are the highest power on earth by most measures.***

***They are called gods, have power of life and death, titles of address not allowed to others, harshest defense.***

***Think! ... Paul was the greatest N.T. apostle but was restrained with gods.***

***Traveling throughout the Empire in many jurisdictions and writing many epistles, he did not write open letters.***

***Think! ... N.T. pastors are compared to O.T. Levites, not to any prophets.***

***The O.T. Levites taught the sense of scripture (Neh 8:7-8); and N.T. pastors rightly divide it. Identical jobs.***



***Think! ... A private letter to the  
governor would have been better.***

***It would not look like grandstanding,  
despising, reviling, vanity, or provoke  
the minister that bears the sword.***

***Think! ... Should a pastor in Russia  
write an open letter to Putin?***

***No, for there is no duty to do so, no  
profit by doing so, and it would  
likely bring Kremlin reprisal.***

***Think! ... Joseph married a pagan priest's daughter and subsized them!***

***He understood prudence and no need to try to change the world for God and adjusted to rampant paganism.***

***Think! ... Once you start this path  
without Bible, ending might be hard.***

***Who should you write? How often?  
What sins? What verses? How harsh?  
Expect other pastors to also write?***

***Think! ... When you fight City Hall,  
you should have some slight hope!***

***The neighbors of GCC in all directions  
chose him as governor by 62% twice,  
for that state has chosen immorality.***

***Think! ... If we should write open letters like this, what else will we do?***

***Picket abortion clinics, stop buying P&G products, picket DNC offices, visit school boards, street preach?***

***Think! ... What will keep us from  
politicians like CM, JF, JVI, MLK?***

***The four above and many more  
have wasted ministries joisting  
the world's political windmills.***

***Think! ... Even if the governor was converted, it cannot justify the letter.***

***We do not measure right or wrong, truth or error, by results, but by Bible.***



***Think! ... If it is right for JM, then it is right and good for all USA pastors.***

***If right for all, what would come of many such letters? National revival or more censorship of Baptists?***

***Think! ... At some point Christians are public nuisances earning punishment.***

***Street preachers fined for disturbing the peace is justice for religious folly never taught or practiced in the Bible.***

***Think! ... A wife under rule of an unbelieving husband was to be quiet.***

***Peter told her to win her man by citizenship, or by holy living and fearful submission, not Bible verses.***

***Think! ... Jesus is a great example,  
though not as good as Paul for us.***

***How many open letters did He write  
against Pilate, Herod, or Rome? How  
often did He preach against rulers?***

***Think! ... Jesus is a great example,  
though not as good as Paul for us.***

***What did Jesus say when told about  
Pilate killing Galilean worshippers?  
He said nothing about Pilate at all.***

***Think! ... California is a nursing mother to GCC by tax exemption.***

***Why slap a nursing mother without direct provocation? Rome greatly benefitted Paul as can be shown.***

***Think! ... If our reasons are right, and they are, then we have obeyed God.***

***A large cause for His blessings and favor on us is our repentance for civil rebellion and submission to the gods.***

***Think! ... If God has blessed us for  
civil obedience, then let us do more.***

***We honor God when we honor His  
gods; we despise God when we  
despise His gods. Amen! The  
rule applies to all spheres.***



... For that the LORD heareth your murmurings  
which ye murmur against him: and what are we?  
your murmurings are not against us,  
but against the LORD.

Exodus 16:8

And the LORD said unto Samuel,  
Hearken unto the voice of the people  
in all that they say unto thee:  
for they have not rejected thee,  
but they have rejected me,  
that I should not reign over them.

I Samuel 8:7

***Think! ... Committed to truth, only  
revenge for disobedience remains.***

***Paul saw his role at Corinth as one of  
war to tear down the ideas, opinions,  
thoughts, and imaginations of the  
members to fully follow Christ.***



# **Thank You, God!**

For teaching us authority.  
For rewarding obedience.  
For prosperity under gods.  
For full victory by Thy Son.

## For Further Study

The Christian and Politics

Living Under Obama

Ordinance of Authority

God bless the IRS

The Christian and Taxes

Exposition of Romans 13

Christian Ethics

Worldview