
In God We Trust
HOLY
BIBLE



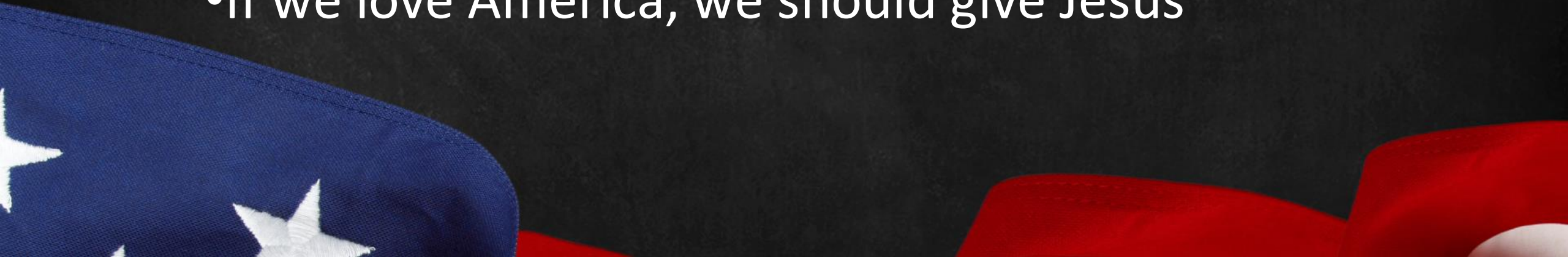
"In God We Trust" is the official motto of the United States.
It was adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1956 and signed into law by President Dwight Eisenhower.

- The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts [בָּטַח *batach*] in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart exults, and with my song I shall thank Him. Psalm 28:7
- When I am afraid, I will put my trust [בָּטַח *batach*] in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust [בָּטַח *batach*]; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me? Psalm 56:3-4
- Meaning of Hebrew verb "בָּטַח *batach*"? It encompasses the total surrender of one's security, future, and identity to a trustworthy God… it is the heartbeat of covenant life.

- https://biblehub.com/hebrew/982.htm

Reminders for Christ-Followers as Citizens

- God is Creator and King and Heavenly Father
- God is not Republican or Democrat or Independent
- God loves the world, including America
- God loves the world, not just America
- God loves the world, so He gave Jesus
- God loves America, so He gave Jesus
- If we love America, we should give Jesus



Which team are we on?



"The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.“
Psalm 103:19



Daniel said, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him.” Daniel 2:20-22



Who is this lesson for?

- Followers of Jesus who love politics
- Followers of Jesus who hate politics
- Followers of Jesus who are involved in politics
- Followers of Jesus who ignore politics
- Followers of Jesus who want to understand God's Word regarding these matters



What do we do first?

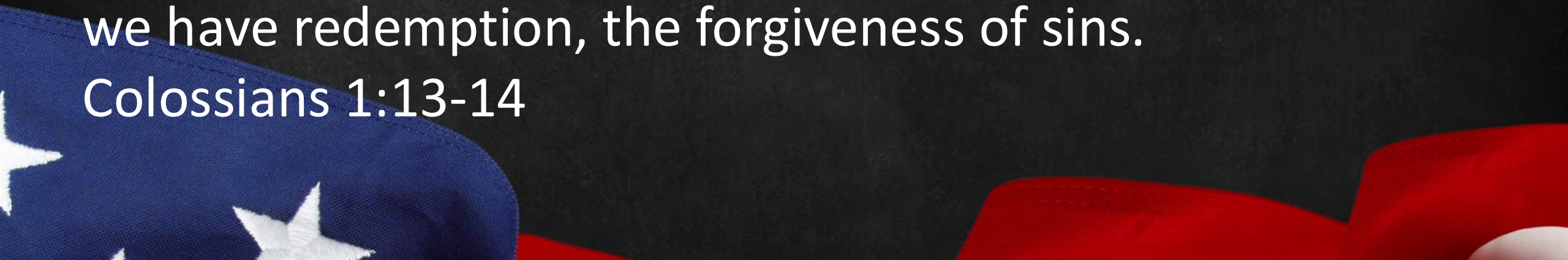
First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

- If we are PRAYING for our leaders, we won't have the time or the desire to ADORE them or HATE them or RIDICULE them or IGNORE them.



Always keep in mind…

- For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. Philippians 3:20-21
- For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14



“The longing is for a carpenter-turned-rabbi, who once ran for Messiah, and got crucified. So we read about the issues. We debate. We learn about policy. We pray. We speak respectfully in the public square. We vote at elections. We serve on councils and cabinets. We preach about God’s concern for peace and justice and generosity and righteousness. But we always remember: this is something we do while we’re waiting.”

- John Ortberg



The Persistent Questions

For followers of Jesus, whose ultimate citizenship is in heaven…

- What is our biblical mandate regarding human government?
- What does God through His Word instruct us regarding earthly leaders?



Romans 12-13



Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2



Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Romans 12:9-13



Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.
Romans 12:14-16

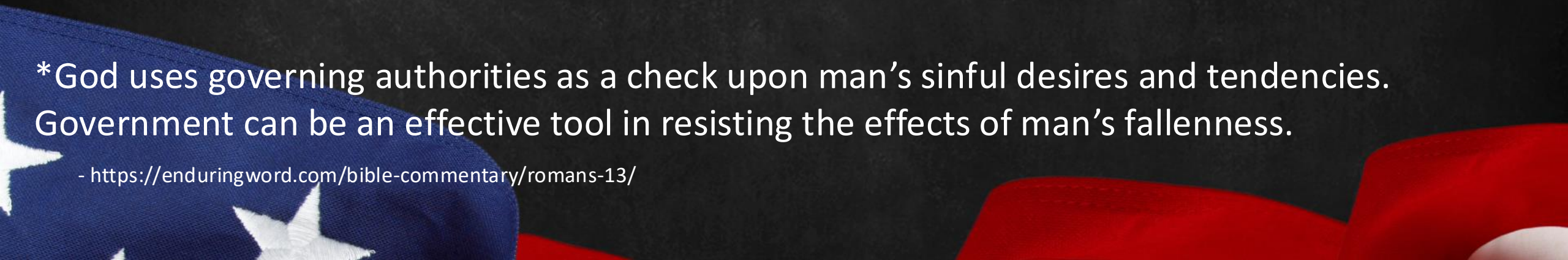


Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. [Deuteronomy 32:35] “But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” [Proverbs 25:21-22] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17-21



Every person is to be in subjection to the governing [higher] authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. Romans 13:1-2



*God uses governing authorities as a check upon man's sinful desires and tendencies. Government can be an effective tool in resisting the effects of man's fallenness.

- https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/romans-13/

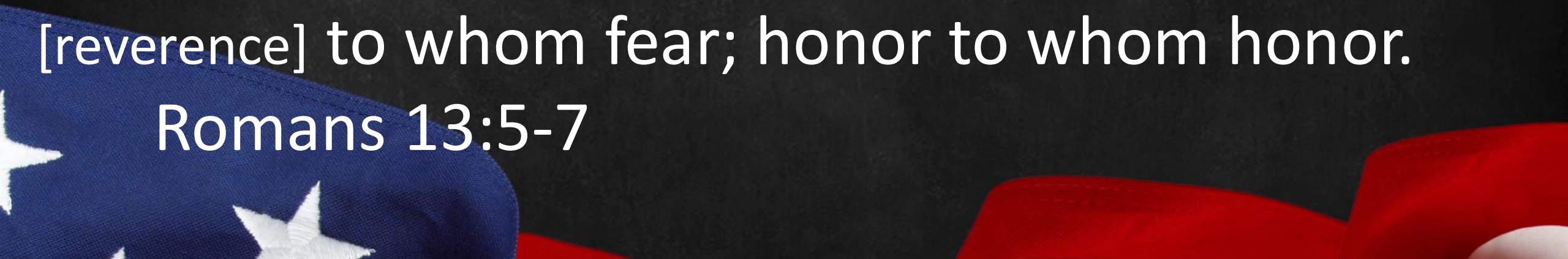
For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword [punishment] for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath [just punishment] on the one who practices evil.

Romans 13:3-4



Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake [knowing it is the right thing to do]. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom [toll or tariff] to whom custom; fear [reverence] to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Romans 13:5-7

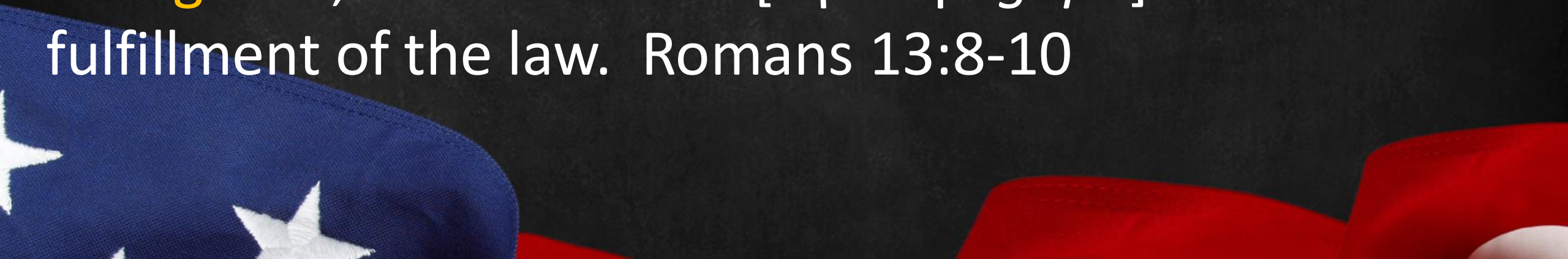


Paul’s idea is that Christians should be the best citizens of all. Even though they are loyal to God before they are loyal to the state, Christians are good citizens because they are honest, give no trouble to the state, pay their taxes, and – most importantly – pray for the state and the rulers.

- https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/romans-13/

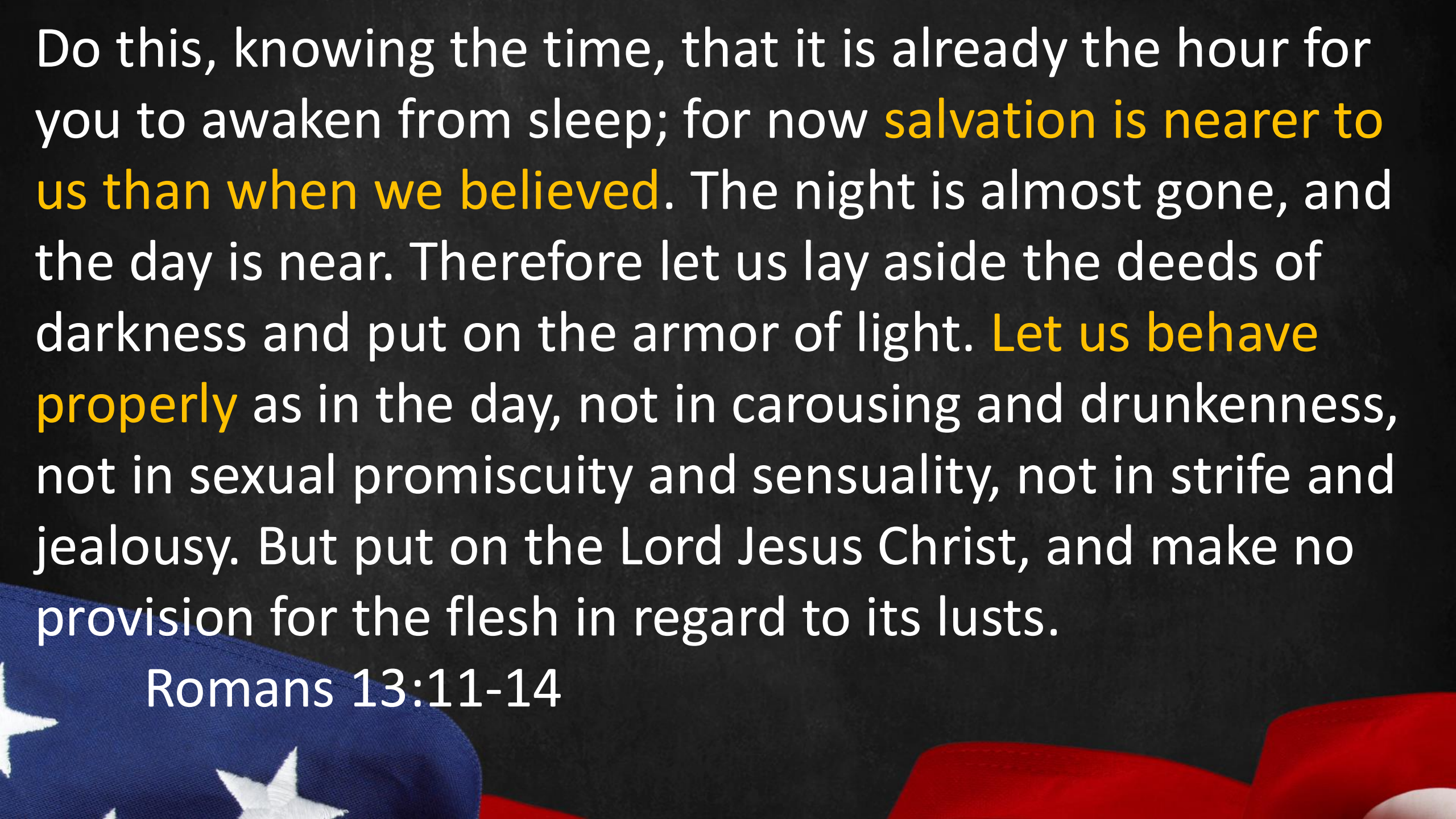


Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." [Leviticus 19:18] Love [ἀγάπη *agape*] does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love [ἀγάπη *agape*] is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-10



Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Romans 13:11-14



Titus 3



Remind [repeatedly] them [Christ-followers in Crete] to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed [be active not passive], to malign [blaspheme] no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. Titus 3:1-2



But what if the government leaders are evil?

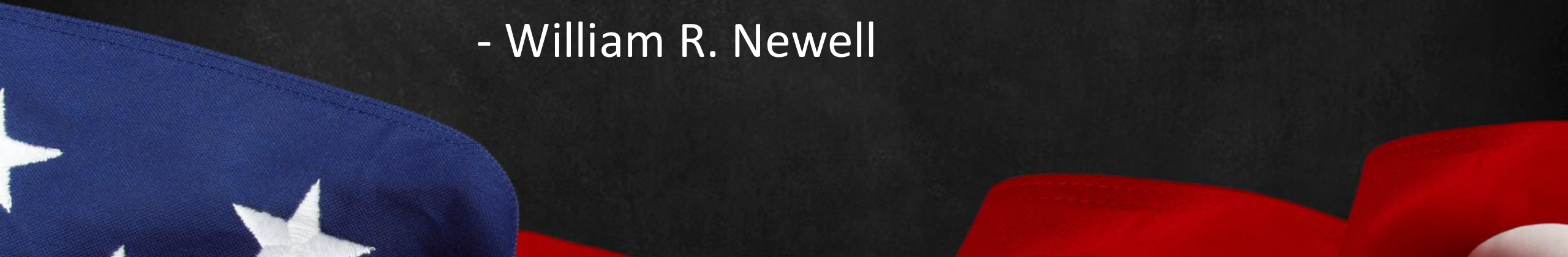
But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29



But what if the government leaders are evil?

"Your Savior suffered under Pontius Pilate, one of the worst Roman governors Judea ever had; and Paul under Nero, the worst Roman Emperor. And neither our Lord nor His Apostle denied or reviled the 'authority!'"

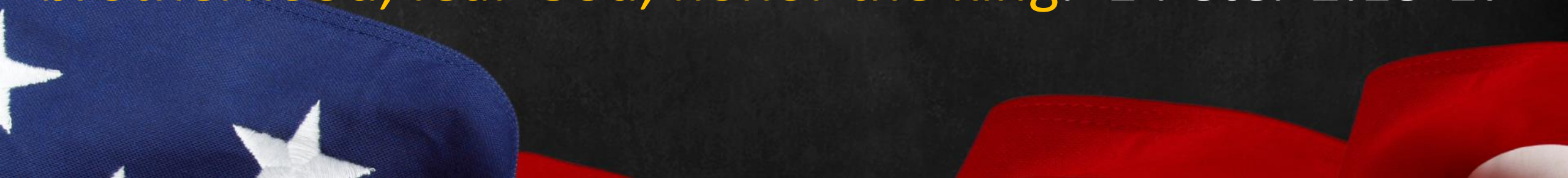
- William R. Newell



1 Peter 2



Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. 1 Peter 2:13-17



1 Peter 2:17 gives a summary of Christian citizenship…

1. **Christians are to respect** (*timēsate*, "honor, value, esteem"; cf. *timēn*, "respect, honor," in 3:7) … **everyone** (cf. Romans 12:10; 13:7). Believers should be conscious of the fact that each human has been uniquely created in God's image.

2. **Christians are to love the brotherhood of believers**, their brothers and sisters in Christ. God's family members should love each other.

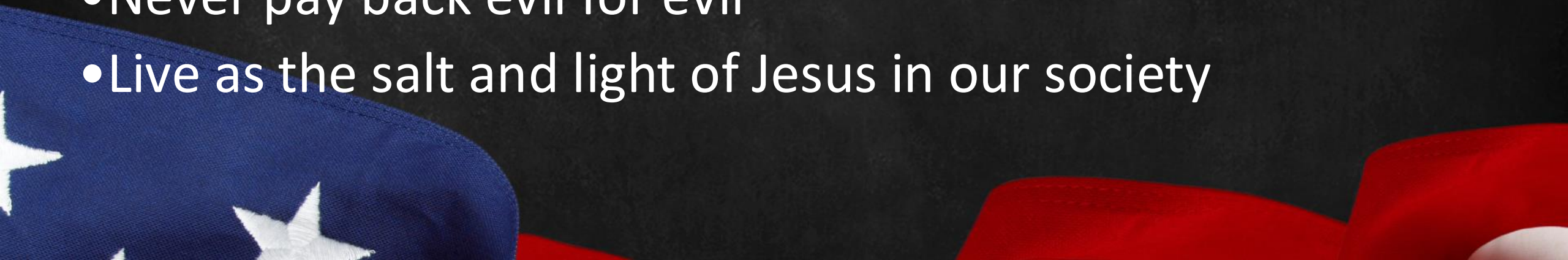
3. **Christians are to fear God**. The verb "fear" (*phobeisthe*) here does not mean to be in terror, but awe and reverence that leads to obedience (cf. *phobō* in 1 Peter 1:17, *phobou* in 3:16, and *phobon* in 2 Corinthians 7:11). One will never truly respect people until he reverences God.

4. **Believers are to honor the king**. "Honor" is from *timaō*, the verb used at the beginning of this verse. The respect or "honor" due to all is especially to be given to those God has placed in authority (cf. "the king" in 1 Peter 2:13 and "governors" in 1 Peter 2:14; cf. Romans 13:1).

- Bible Knowledge Commentary

What can believers do in the political arena?

- Be informed about the issues
- Pray for your leaders and your community
- Be involved and let your voice be heard
- Vote for candidates who best express Biblical values
- Run for office if God leads you
- Obey governmental laws that do not contradict God's Word
- Never pay back evil for evil
- Live as the salt and light of Jesus in our society



Q: If America held an election and ONE OR MORE of the candidates for an office outwardly demonstrated devotion to Jesus and knowledge of the Bible, what should Christ-followers do?

A: In God We Trust



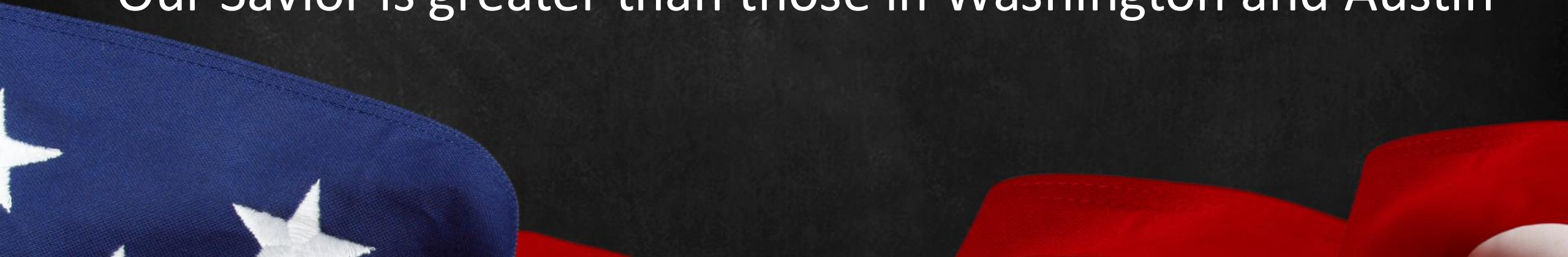
Q: If America held an election and NONE of the candidates for an office outwardly demonstrated devotion to Jesus and knowledge of the Bible, what should Christ-followers do?

A: In God We Trust



Please remember…

- Our political leaders are found in Washington and Austin
- Our laws are made in Washington and Austin
- Our salvation is NOT found in Washington and Austin
- Our hope is NOT found in Washington and Austin
- Our purpose in life is NOT found in Washington and Austin
- Our Savior is greater than those in Washington and Austin



Trust [בָּטַח *batach*] in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust [בָּטַח *batach*] also in Him, and He will do it. Psalm 37:3-5

