



Help the Helpless Proverbs | 10.04.20

2 Chronicles 7:14 *“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and help their land.”*

The interpretation of this prayer and promise from 2 Chronicles relates to King Solomon regarding the Jewish Nation. However, an application would carry to any nation. Scripture and history confirm that God responds to genuine repentance.

Romans 13:1-7 | Christ-followers should be the best citizens.

V1 The ultimate and final source of authority is God.

V2 One cannot separate divine authority from human authority.

V3 The purpose of governmental authority is to promote good and punish evil.

V4 God has granted authority to the government for corporal and capital punishment.

V5 One can observe many practical and spiritual reasons to obey governmental authority

V6 Taxes are God-approved ways to support the government.

V7 One should respond with appropriate respect to governmental authorities.

- Challenges and conflicts arise for the Christian when governments refuse to recognize God’s higher authority.
- If one must resist the government, it should be with a spirit of humility.
- Do not overlook all other options before demonstrating resistance.

The Tensions for Believers:

1. Followers of Christ live in a temporal world with an eternal perspective.

Matthew 6:19-21, John 18:36, 1 John 2:15-17, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, Philippians 1:21-23, 3:17-21, Colossians 3:1-4

2. Followers of Christ are the most joyful/sorrowful people.

Matthew 5:11-12, 26:37-38, John 14:28, 16:20-22, Romans 9:1-3, 12:15, 1Corinthians 12:26, 2Corinthians 6:10, 1Thessalonians 4:13, Philippians 4:4, Colossians 1:24

3. Followers of Christ live with sight but walk in faith.

Matthew 25:20-21, Romans 1:17, 3:28, 12:3, 1Corinthians 2:5, 4:2, 16:13, 2Corinthians 5:7, Galatians 2:20, 5:22, Ephesians 6:16, 2Timothy 4:7, Hebrews 11:6

4. Followers of Christ have dual citizenship with heaven and earth.

John 18:36 *Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”*

Philippians 3:20 *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*

Matthew 22:17-19 Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. ²⁰ And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

Where can we find God's image stamped? Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Proverbs 24:10-12 If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small. ¹¹ Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. ¹² If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?

"I know that I am, in great measure, a child of my times. And one of the pervasive marks of our times is emotional fragility. It hangs in the air we breathe. We are easily hurt. We pout and mope easily. We blame easily. We break easily. Our marriages break easily. Our faith breaks easily. Our happiness breaks easily. And our commitment to the church breaks easily. We are easily disheartened, and it seems we have little capacity for surviving and thriving in the face of criticism and opposition." John Piper

God loves us, and at times, has a challenging and **difficult plan** for us.

"**Father, I want to know Thee**, but my cowardly heart fears to give up its toys. I cannot part with them without inward bleeding, and I do not try to hide from Thee the terror of the parting. I come trembling, but I do come. Please root from my heart all those things which I have cherished so long, and which have become a very part of my living self, so that Thou mayest enter and dwell there without a rival. Then shall my heart have no need of the sun to shine in it, for Thyself will be the light if it, and there shall no night dwell." A.W. Tozer

Hebrews 12:3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged (faint) in your souls.

My task, as a pastor, is to help others see the bigger picture. As Christians, we become brothers and sisters in Christ. God calls us to love one another. We cannot forget that one day we will stand before God.

Hebrews 10:31 "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Romans 14:10-13 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ¹¹ For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² **So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.** ¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.