

“DO YOUR DUTY”
WHAT A CHRISTIAN OWES HIS COUNTRY
Satilla Baptist Church
Wray, GA
Sunday November 10, 2019
Pastor William Pope
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www.satillachurch.com

I. Introduction

a. Veterans day we honor those who did their duty to their country. We have a duty to our county. What is a Christian’s Patriotic duty to his country?

II. We Should Love our Country

a. I love America! Is Patriotism wrong? Absolutely not!!

i. *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. 7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. Psalms 122:6-7 (KJV)*

ii. *By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. 2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. 3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. 4 How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land? 5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. 6 If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy. Psalms 137:1-6 (KJV)*

b. The writer of these passages loved his country!

c. He also wanted revival for his country:

i. *For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. Isaiah 62:1 (KJV)*

ii. *That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped,*

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which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. 4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, Neh 1:2-4 (KJV)

d. How does a Christian show his patriotism?

III. We Should Pray for Our Country

a. See Isaiah 62 and Nehemiah 1 above

b. *I exhort therefore, that, **first of all**, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim 2:1-4 (KJV)*

c. *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chron 7:14 (KJV)*

IV. We Should Obey the Laws of Our Country

a. Paying Taxes

i. *Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. 16 And they sent out unto him their*

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*disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. 17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? 19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. 20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? 21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. 22 When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way. Matt 22:15-22 (KJV)*³

b. Obeying Moral Laws

- i. *1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience*

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sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 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 13:1-7 (KJV)

- ii. Although our government or the people who hold high positions may not be worthy of honor at times we must always respect their position. (We name our sons Peter and Paul and our dogs Nero)

V. **We Should be the Conscience of Our Country**

a. Sometimes we have to disobey the Government:

- i. The midwives disobeyed Pharaoh's command to kill all the Hebrew baby boys (Exod. 2:15-21).
- ii. Daniel disobeyed King Darius' order not to pray to His God (Dan. 6:1-23).
- iii. Christians in Asia Minor disobeyed the Imperial edict to swear: "Caesar is Lord," threw their incense to the ground in defiance, and declared: Christ is Lord!" (Rev. 2:8-10; 2:13).
- iv. They were all blessed by God for their civil disobedience.
- v. Finally, the same Peter who wrote that we should submit to the government's authority and respect the King is the same Peter who boldly told the religious rulers who ordered him to stop preaching about Jesus: "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29).

b. Sometimes we have to declare our Country's Sins:

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- i. *Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Isaiah 58:1 (KJV)*
- ii. *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 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; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2 Tim 4:1-5 (KJV)*
- iii. Examples:
 - 1. *Moses=Pharaoh*
 - 2. *Samuel=Saul*
 - 3. *Nathan=David*
 - 4. *Elijah=Ahab & Jezebel*
 - 5. *John the Baptist=Herod,*
 - 6. *Paul=Felix*

VI. **We Should Participate In the Governing Of Our Country**

- a. God ordained government. If God’s people stay out of government who does that leave to run it?
- b. *Prov 29:2 (NKJV) When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked [man] rules, the people groan.*

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- c. *And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. 1 Sam 8:18 (KJV)*
- d. We have a government, Of the people, by the people and for the people. We have the power to help choose and even to be our own leaders. A man or woman who refuses to do that shreaks their duty.
- e. *11 If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; 12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works? Prov 24:11-12 (KJV)*
- f. *Jame 4:17 (KJS) Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth [it] not, to him it is sin.*
- g. *“All that is necessary for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing”*

VII. Some Things We Must Not Do”

- a. We must not look to Government rather than God for the Salvation of Society.
- b. Only God, not Government can change hearts.
- c. Our Mission is to Preach to the Gospel and teach them to observe all that Christ commanded us.
- d. Revival does not have to be routed through Washington or Atlanta.