

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired



Every word proclaimed

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28



Redeemed, How I Love To Proclaim It

1. Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
His child and forever I am.

Refrain

**Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child and forever I am.**

2. Redeemed, and so happy in Jesus,
No language my rapture can tell;
I know that the light of His presence
With me doth continually dwell.

Refrain

3. I think of my blessèd Redeemer,
I think of Him all the day long:
I sing, for I cannot be silent;
His love is the theme of my song.

Refrain

4. I know I shall see in His beauty
The King in whose law I delight;
Who lovingly guardeth my footsteps,
And giveth me songs in the night.

Refrain

5. I know there's a crown that is
waiting,
In yonder bright mansion for me,
And soon, with the spirits made
perfect,
At home with the Lord I shall be.

Refrain

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“Rulers & Authorities in a Pagan Society”

Titus 3:1,2

January 10, 2016

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- 1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,
- 2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

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Titus 1:12

12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said,
"Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

- Polybius wrote that the Cretans were notorious for a rebellious spirit and were constantly involved in insurrections, murders, and internal wars.
- So Paul and Titus lived in a pagan society, hostile to the gospel and hostile to believers.
- Today we are rapidly approaching a similar situation and in many ways we are already there.
- Consider this . . .

“The 350-year marriage of Protestant Christian theology and American popular culture is over. Christianity, it may be sadly said, is no longer the preeminent social influence in American life. We Christians who dared to presume that America was ever all and only ours are, apart from some God-ordained awakening, unlikely to “get our country back.” We will live and work henceforth, as do most other Christians around the world, amidst a public square hostile to our beliefs.”

- Rick Segal

“The United States essentially is now a pagan nation. After being blessed with some 150 years of strong Christian, biblical influence, our country has been rapidly declining, especially during the last half of the twentieth century. Millions of Americans still attend church regularly, and many more consider themselves to be Christians. According to polls, most Americans claim to believe in God. But practical atheism and moral relativism have dominated our society for many decades. For the most part, the few vestiges of Christianity still reflected in our culture are weak and compromising. A growing number of those vestiges have become apostate or cultic....The many biblical tenets and standards that once were part of the fabric of our country, and that provided the undeniable cultural benefits of morality, are now gone. Whatever its form or practical benefits may have been, cultural Christianity is dead. Self-expression, moral freedom, materialism, and hedonism are the prevailing gods.”

- John MacArthur

Mark 12:14-17

14 Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?

15 "Shall we pay or shall we not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at."

16 They brought one. And He said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" And they said to Him, "Caesar's."

17 And Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Question:

What is God's?

Answer: Everything

So here is how we are to think about things –

- *All of life ,including all of Caesar's authority, rights, powers, and possessions belong to God. If you understand that then you will be in the proper frame of mind to render to Caesar what is Caesar's.*
- *What is Caesar's is determined by what is God's first, and only becomes Caesar's by God's permission.*
- *It is only by the sovereignty and providence of God that Caesar receives anything. God alone decides that.*

Col 1:16

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

For the spread of the gospel –

- God installs and removes rulers.
- Economies surge and crash.
- Church planting and missionary doors open and close.
- Gospel awakening breaks out in one place and persecution breaks out in another.

All that is happening right now, no matter how difficult, and ungodly, and destructive, will not prevent, but in fact will have some role in facilitating the gospel proclamation throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations.

1 Peter 2:13-17

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

Question:

Why submit to Caesar?

Answer: You do it for the Lord's sake.

- If you cannot do it for the Lord's sake (if it is not His will) then don't do it.
- As a believer you are the citizen of one kingdom – the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, in a positional sense, you are free from Caesar. You are an alien living in a strange land. You are an ambassador in a foreign country.
- God has saved you out of the world and then sent you back in the world to live a life that represents the ideas and principles of another kingdom.
- That life includes submission and honor to Caesar.

Titus 2:5,8,10

5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

Rom 13:1-7

- 1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.
- 2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.
- 3 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;
- 4 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 for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.
- 5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.
- 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.
- 7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Question:

What is God's purpose for having a Caesar?

Answer: It is God's way of running His universe. A universe without Caesar would be chaotic, evil, disorderly, destructive, unjust, and run by men of depraved hearts and minds with no restraint.

- You are subject to Caesar for your own good and protection.
- All Caesars, regardless how corrupt they are, still bring order and a degree of protection for their citizens.
- Therefore if you oppose Caesar and refuse to submit, you are taking yourself out from under God's umbrella of protection, and you are searing your conscience from what you know to be right as an obedient follower of Christ Who is over Caesar.

1 Tim 2:1-4

- 1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,
- 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.
- 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
- 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Question:

How do we pray for Caesar?

Answer:

1. Give thanks for Caesar. Without rulers, unbridled evil (anarchy) would be unleashed on us with no recourse.
2. Pray that our Caesar would allow us to lead a quiet and tranquil life.

Jer 29:7

7 'Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.'

3. Pray that believers understand that with a tranquil and quiet life we can concentrate on a life of godliness, dignity, and evangelism. More people are saved when Caesar restrains anarchy and evil than when he doesn't.

Who are the “Rulers & Authorities” over you?

National

President

Congress

Supreme Court

Military

State

Governor

Legislators

State Courts

Highway Patrol

County & City

County Courts

Mayor

City Council

Sheriff & Police

Personal

Employer

Parent

Church Elders

Husband

Purpose of all governments:

1. To protect its citizens.
2. To establish order and laws.
3. To provide certain benefits and services .

For instance, the purpose of the US Government, as found in the Preamble of the Constitution, is to "establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

22 million people are employed in the federal, state, and local governments.

1.4 million in active military. 1 million in reserves.

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How do we adorn the gospel with our lives when we live in a pagan society that is hostile toward Christians and the Bible?

6 ways -

1. To be obedient. *πειθαρχεω* – “to obey a ruler”
rulers - "liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

"Are we ever to disobey?" *Yes. There are two occasions when we disobey:*

1. when Caesar asks us to do what the Bible forbids us to do.

2. when Caesar forbids us not to do what the Bible commands us to do.

3 case studies -

Dan 3:10-27

10 "You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe and all kinds of music, is to fall down and worship the golden image.

11 "But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.

12 "There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

17 "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

18 "But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire.

Dan 6:16-23

16 Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you."

20 When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

21 Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever!

22 "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

23 Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den.

Acts 5:17-42

- 17 But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy.
- 18 They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.
- 27 When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them,
- 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."
- 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.
- 40 They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them.
- 41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.
- 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

If the government gives you certain rights, then there is nothing wrong with acting on them –

Acts 22:24-29

24 the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, stating that he should be examined by scourging so that he might find out the reason why they were shouting against him that way.

25 But when they stretched him out with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?"

26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and told him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman."

27 The commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" And he said, "Yes."

28 The commander answered, "I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money." And Paul said, "But I was actually born a citizen."

29 Therefore those who were about to examine him immediately let go of him; and the commander also was afraid when he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains.

2. To be ready for every good deed. “aggressive goodness”

“I would not give much for your religion unless it can be seen.
Lamps do not talk, but they do shine.”

- Charles Spurgeon

“Do good until it is an unconscious habit of life and you do not
know you are doing it.”

- Oswald Chambers

You are writing a Gospel,
A chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do
And the words that you say.

Men read what you write,
Whether faithful or true:
Just what is the Gospel
According to you?

--- Author unknown

3. To malign no one.

βλασφημεω – to blaspheme, to slander, to curse, to speak contemptuously of people.

*Don't malign them, pray for them.

4. To be peaceable. αμοξουσ - not fighting

“αμοξουσ - “describes a person who does not go about with a chip on his shoulder.” - Kenneth Wuest

- we're not to fight or be combative.
- we're to be peaceful and not hostile.
- friendly.
- don't quarrel with the government
- don't fight government leaders.

5. **To be gentle.** **πραυτησ** - humility

Used in classical Greek literature to describe a horse that someone had broken and had trained to submit to a bridle. It pictures **strength under control**.

Gentleness was not considered a virtue among the Greeks; They were always ready to fight, and would never miss a chance at fighting;

6. **Showing every consideration for all men.**

πραυτησ – humility

Don't flaunt your Christianity. Don't act "holier than thou".

Application

1. Believers have and will continue to do harm to the cause of Christ and the spread of the gospel by their attitudes toward government and their failure to trust in the sovereignty of God.
2. Watch your eschatology.

*Are we here to establish the Kingdom of God of the Millennium?
To Christianize all of society including those who rule and have
authority over us?*

3. When all is said and done, only 2 things go into eternity, and one of them is not earthly governments. Those 2 things are the Word of God and people, regardless of the government they lived under or how moral the people were.

- If people die in a Communist government or a democracy, it really doesn't matter, if they end up in hell.
- If they die under a tyrant or a benevolent dictator, it doesn't matter, if they end up in hell.
- If they die believing that homosexuality is wrong or believing that homosexuality is right, and end up in hell, it doesn't matter.
- If they die as a policeman or a prostitute without Christ, they're going to end up in the same place.
- Whether they die moral or immoral will make no difference in their eternity.
- Whether they stood on the side of the street with the pro-abortion rights group and screamed for legalizing and maintaining legal abortions, or on the other side of the street against abortion and screamed to stop the killing - if they didn't know Christ they're going to end up in the same place.

Application

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2. Watch your eschatology.

Are we here to establish the Kingdom of God of the Millennium? To Christianize all of society including those who rule and have authority over us?

3. When all is said and done, only 2 things go into eternity, and one of them is not earthly governments. Those 2 things are the Word of God and people, regardless of the government they lived under.
4. The adornment of the gospel, so that the gospel can spread unhindered, is a believer's top priority.

H. Ernest Nichol

H. Ernest Nichol (b. Hull, Yorkshire, England, 1862; d. Skirlaugh, Yorkshire, England, 1926) had begun a study program in civil engineering when he decided to study music instead. In 1888 he received a bachelor's degree in music from Oxford University. Nichol wrote some 130 hymns.

WE'VE A STORY TO TELL TO THE NATIONS

1. We've a story to tell to the nations,
That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light,
A story of peace and light.

Refrain

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
And the dawning to noonday bright;
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
The kingdom of love and light.**

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,
That shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
A song that shall conquer evil
And shatter the spear and sword,
And shatter the spear and sword.

Refrain

3. We've a message to give to the nations,
That the Lord who reigns up above
Has sent us His Son to save us,
And show us that God is love,
And show us that God is love.

Refrain

We've a Savior to show to the nations,
Who the path of sorrow has trod,
That all of the world's great peoples
Might come to the truth of God,
Might come to the truth of God.

Refrain