

**When politics
drives you**

cray

Remember how God blesses you through government.

Six truths about government to remember

ITS EXISTENCE: Every government is established by God.

ITS PURPOSE: Every government works for the good of God's kingdom, knowingly or unknowingly.

ITS TOOLS: The state wields the sword to accomplish its purposes.

ITS METHOD OF RULING: The state uses rewards and punishments to move people to obedience.

ITS SOURCE OF TRUTH: The state governs by natural reason, which is affected by sin.

ITS SURVIVAL: The state rises and falls. The church remains forever.



Discussion

Does the government get a favorable or unfavorable review in our culture today?
Why or why not?

When and why are you most likely to complain about your government?

When politics drives you *crazy*

Lesson 2

Romans 13:3-5

For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

Discuss:

How does government function, and how is that different from how God's kingdom functions?

Paul says that those in authority are God's servants to do us good. What are examples of good that we receive from our government?

How are people tempted to make government the "savior" rather than the servant of God?

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Lesson 2

Read Genesis 50:19-21. “But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.”

Discuss:

How did God use Joseph in his position of authority in Egypt to save Jacob’s family, the promise of a Savior, and even many people in the region?

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Romans 9:17: For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”

Discuss:

How did God use Pharaoh at the time of the Exodus for his purpose?

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Jeremiah 29:7: “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Discuss:

How did God use Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon for the good of his people? How were they to show obedience and respect to their king?

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Isaiah 45:13: “I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the Lord Almighty.”

Discuss:

How did God use Cyrus for the good of his kingdom?



Discussion

There are a lot of little things that happen in our lives that are blessings that God gives us through our government. What are some of them? How can we be thankful for them?

Questions?

Submit follow-up questions at <http://forwardinchrist.net/submit>