

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #29

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
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Why Is "Law & Order" Necessary?

By John T. Polk II

"Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust." (1 Timothy 1:5-11)

The purpose of God's commandments is to encourage each individual to keep their **heart pure** (without hurtful scarring), **conscience good** (without offense), **sincere faith** (without hypocrisy); in other words, for a person to be free of the filth of sin. Then follows a list of degrading behaviors that come out of a filthy heart, deadened conscience, and faithlessness. "**Law**" is able to define the moral line(s) crossed by such unacceptable behavior in any civil society. God is the consummate Judge of such behavior because He made us and knows what we are capable of achieving and therefore our sense of failure when we do not. "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26-27). Professors of law who encourage such outrageous behaviors (whether philosophical theories, or religious sermons, or through government laws) are "**idle**" (or empty of truth), without "**understanding**" (or proper thinking), in what they "**say**" or "**affirm**" (or endorsement

without evidence). In other words, they are promoting behavior that destroys human integrity and societies altogether!

Peter warned of such in 2 Peter 2:18-19: "For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage." These people use "**great swelling**" words, or words exceeding their definition or ability to fulfill, which makes them "**empty**" or vain, without real meaning. They promise "**liberty**" or living without law such as: sex without marriage, God without religion, Jesus without baptism, conception without birth; choices of sexual identity; civil society without law, *ad nauseum*. ALL THE WHILE, THEY ARE "**SLAVES OF CORRUPTION**," or bound by that which ruins and corrupts! They sound appealing to Christians who are being faced with moral decisions to make based upon the Word of God: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14). Only people whose faith hasn't been grounded in the Word of God are liable to give in to such feeble, lame, and flimsy words promising that life without God is better than life with God!

Law(s) based on God's Word are adequate, fair, thorough, and unchanging. A Christian will always influence human laws toward God.
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~"Patriotism is easy to understand in America. It means looking out for yourself by looking out for your country."

~Calvin Coolidge, 1923

~"You see my kind of loyalty was loyalty to one's country, not to its institutions or its office-holders". ~Mark Twain

~"It is lamentable, that to be a good patriot we must become the enemy of the rest of mankind."

~Voltaire, translated by William F. Fleming

~"Do not, therefore, regard the critics as questionable patriots. What were Washington and Jefferson and Adams but profound critics of the colonial status quo?

~Adlai E. Stevenson



THE EVANGELIST



"Many a man saves everything except his soul."

Some Things to Remember After the Election is Over

The election will soon be over, and, boy oh boy, will I be glad. I simply detest all of the political rhetoric, spinning of the issues, and the constant, incessant, irritating ads! Regardless of whether our favorite candidate wins or not, and regardless of whether we think the country is headed the right or wrong direction, there are some important things we need to remember after all of the dust has settled. We can glean them from the book of Daniel, who definitely had to endure some wicked, ungodly rulers.

1) God is still in control. No matter who is elected, always remember that God is in charge. In the book of Daniel, four times we read that "*the Most High rules in the kingdom of men*" (4:17, 25, 32; 5:21). Daniel 2:21 says it best, "*He removes kings and raises up kings.*" Remember this: no election by man is going to thwart God's almighty plan! Regardless of who is in office, God's will still will be done.

2) God will make it so that we can remain faithful to Him. No matter how wicked the political leader, no matter how much the laws are changed for the worse, no matter how oppressive the government, Christians can remain faithful to God. Despite servitude and persecution, Daniel was still able to remain faithful to Jehovah God (Daniel 1:1-8, 6: 7-10). God will not let a situation happen to His people in which it is impossible for them to remain faithful to His will.

3) Because God is in control and because He will make it so that we can be faithful to Him, we can rest assured that He will reward our faithfulness. All good things come from God, and God can bring blessings into any situation. When Daniel remained faithful, God blessed him (Daniel 1:9, 15-20; 6:2:46-48; 4:29; 6:1-3, 22, 28). Regardless of who comes into political leadership and regardless of what laws are or are not created, we can have the certainty that if we remain faithful to God, He will bless us and reward us.

So, once the election is over, resolve to be a faithful Christian, a good citizen, and a caring human, and maybe it won't bother you so much just who did or didn't get elected! And always remember that God will always be God – nothing will ever change that!

- Edd Sterchi