



BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW!

Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!

What does the Bible say about politics?

Jeremiah 29:5-7

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Sunday Morning Service

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Opening Comments

- Today, we take a break from our verse-by-verse study of Zechariah to continue our series: **Biblical Worldviews: Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!**
- Turn in your Bible to **Jeremiah 29**
- Most of you are probably familiar with one of the most famous verses in Jeremiah's book **Jeremiah 29:11**

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- Jeremiah was communicating God's message to the Jews who been exiled from the land of Israel to Babylon
- He had just told them that they were going to be there for seventy years, but then God was going to visit them and deliver them from exile and bring them back to the Promised Land
- They are in a foreign land in less than desirable circumstances
- They were torn forcefully from their homes, livelihoods, communities, religion
- My focus for this morning will be on what God tells them through Jeremiah in the verses before that
- They may have wondered, 'How are we to live here as exiles in this utterly pagan world?'
- As we grow in our faith, we may feel something of what they are going through
- This world grows increasingly strange to our faith
- And we are drawn to our home that is not of this world
- Just as the Jews had to live in the land of Babylon where God had sent them, we have to live in this land where God placed us
- But first, let's pray
- **Pray**

Teaching

- Today's topic might be one that some people believe doesn't belong in the church

- My position on that is, if the Bible talks about it, then the church MUST talk about it
- **What does the Bible say about politics?**
- Let's begin with a definition
- Politics: the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups.**
- Politics is the system used by groups to make decisions
- Every type of group, starting with marriages and families has a system they use to make decisions – that is their political system – even churches
- The word 'politics' comes from the Greek root 'polis' = city - 'politika' = matters/affairs of the city
- Some wonder why Christians should care or be involved in politics
- Politics matter because politics determines policy and polices affect people.**
- But the question remains, 'Should Christians be involved in politics?'
- Let's look at our text for this morning
- **Jeremiah 29:1-4**
- First, reminds them that they are where they are because it was God's will that they be there
- And as we think about politics, we need also to keep that in mind, you are in the country, state, county, city where God placed you
- For the Jews, they didn't have a choice
- Maybe you do, before you leave where you are, make sure you aren't leaving where God wants you to be
- **Jeremiah 29:5-6**
- God didn't want them to just exist in Babylon, but to flourish there
- Even in the punishment of exile, God wanted to do good for them
- The next verse is the one I want to focus on
- **Jeremiah 29:7**
- One of the things that Pastor Randy is faithful to do every week is to remind us to pray for those in our government
- The apostle Paul exhorts us to do that very thing **1 Timothy 2:1-2**
- Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.**
- It is for our own good that we should be praying for those in authority

- Especially, those who do not know the Lord and are inclined toward evil
 - But our verse includes more than just praying for the leaders or praying for peace
 - **Jeremiah 29:7a**
 - ‘seek the peace of the city’
 - That word ‘seek’ is in the form of a command
 - Another way of saying it might be, ‘Be active doing things that lead to peace in the city’.
 - That includes whatever system they use for making decisions as a group for the flourishing and peace of the group
 - In other words, get involved in the politics of the city/state/country where God has caused you to live
 - ‘seek the peace of the city’ does not mean strive for an absence of conflict – The only true peace in the world is the peace of God
 - And that only comes when people are at peace with God through faith
 - The reason Christians should be involved in politics is so that they can be a Spirit-filled force for peace in a world filled with violence, evil, and wickedness
 - I would like to share with you three things to keep in mind
 - First – **Respect Authority**
 - Turn to **Romans 13**
 - We live in a time and place where it is hard to do this
 - Especially with some of the things those in authority are doing **Isaiah 5:20**
- Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**
- It is exceedingly hard to respect leaders who put forward legislation to permits the murder of babies, even trying to do it after they are born
 - Calling it women’s health or a women’s right to choose
 - The Apostle Paul wrote to Christians living under the authority of the Roman government – liberal and cruel
 - **Romans 13:1-3**
 - No government can exist apart from God’s will
 - Even wicked, godless leaders will be used for God’s glory and will

- **Romans 8:28** is always true

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- It may be challenging to respect those in authority, but it is our duty as Christians under their authority
- Second thing to keep in mind – **Always put God first!**
- Even though we are under human authority, we have a duty that supersedes all others **Isaiah 33:22**

For the LORD is our Judge, the LORD is our Lawgiver, the LORD is our King; He will save us.

- As we seek to respect and submit to the human authorities God placed over us, there will be times when those human authorities are calling us to choose between obeying them and obeying God
- Peter and the apostles faced this problem when they were commanded not to speak about Jesus **Acts 5:29**

Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that putting God first could cost them their lives, but it was a choice without a choice – God first!
- As we engage in the politics of our nation, we must always put God first, regardless of the possible consequences
- God is greater than any consequences
- Third thing to keep in mind – **We are salt and light!**
- Turn to **Matthew 5** - Christians have a very important role in politics
- It is the same role we have in all aspects of our life in this world
- **Matthew 5:13-16**
- The world is divided into two kingdoms – light and darkness
- Jesus came to deliver humanity out of the kingdom of darkness **John 3:19**

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

- When we put our trust in Christ, He spiritually transported us out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His light
- As long as we live in this physical world, we carry the light of Jesus Christ everywhere we go
- By faith we let it shine, even in the area of politics
- To let our light shine, we must be involved in politics

- What does that mean for the average Christian
- Three quick things – **Christians in Politics!**
- First – **Pray**
- There is a lot we can do besides pray but there is nothing we should do before we pray
- Pray for God’s will – pray for our leaders to know God’s will
- Pray they would humble themselves before God
- Pray for wisdom and direction on how you should be involved
- Second – **Vote**
- We have mid-term elections coming up
- One of the most impactful ways Christians can be involved in politics is to vote
- And not just vote – but vote wisely
- Every election includes policies and people
- It is incumbent for us as believers to know what the impact of every measure on the ballot is
- If you don’t have time to research it yourself, find a resource that you can trust to help you
- When it comes to people, choose the one that best reflects your Christian values
- This week I was talking to someone about this message, and they asked me an interesting question, “If Jesus was voting in the 2020 Presidential Election would He have voted for Donald Trump?”
- Typically, in those kinds of elections there are only two candidates
- There may be more on the ballot but only two are serious contenders
- Neither one of them are perfect, they aren’t saints, even if they claim to be believers
- In 2020 we had a choice between a Republican with some obvious character flaws and a Liberal Democrat
- It came down to a question about whether we should vote for someone who says mean things on Twitter or someone who would actively fight to make abortion legal through all nine months
- It was an easy choice – if I have to vote for a sinner – I am going to vote for the one who isn’t into killing babies

- Before any Christian votes for a Democrat, they ought to go and read what they stand for and against –
- No Christian should ever vote for a Democrat – they are opposed to most of what you believe in
- Many of them believe your faith is standing in the way of progress
- The progress they want is your light extinguished so that the darkness encompasses this whole world
- Christians need to be involved in politics – first, praying – Second, voting
- Third – **Action**
- William Wilberforce lived in a time when slavery was considered normal and natural
- Because of his faith and the conviction of the Holy Spirit he came to believe that slavery was a great evil
- He committed his life to working through the political system of Great Britain until slavery was abolished
- Not everyone can be a William Wilberforce, but we can be praying that God would raise them up and then choose to stand with them in prayer and support
- There are many other ways to be involved in politics
- Nowhere in Scripture is the church called to be involved in politics, but it is clear in Scripture that God desires godly men and women to be involved in the decision-making process of our cities, states, and country
- To be lights in the darkness that seems to be spreading faster and farther every day
- I will close with a quote attributed to **Plato**
“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.”
- If we want to seek the peace of our nation, we must get involved
- **Prayer**