

## VOTING

I have been asked from time to time, do I vote? My answer is, “no, not anymore”. Then I am asked “why?” My answer is: “I have not voted since I have learned The Truth (**John17:17**), and I’m now **striving** to be a Christian, according to the Word; an obedient self denying, follower of Christ” (**Luke9:23-26 and John 12:25-26**). This response usually is not pleasing to the ear, just as many things Jesus Christ and his apostles have done and said. I know this pleases GOD though, because **JESUS** said in **John 8:47** “He that is of God **heareth God's words**: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God”. “**John 17:14** I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” Here are some of the last words that were spoken by GOD the Father, after Jesus’ baptism; (**Matt.17:1-8 note verse 5** While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.**) Remember because of the TRUTH, the Lord and saviour Jesus Christ was ill spoken of, and eventually crucified/killed, and so were many of his followers. We are sure that some, if not most might say: “so many suffered and died so that all can have the privilege of Voting; and that it would be a shame to dishonor such a sacrifice for us, by not utilizing such.” We believe this is a legitimate fleshly train of thought, but not according to scriptural (spiritual) knowledge. Rather, the Lord and saviour Jesus Christ only lived a suffering lifestyle that **ended** most cruelly on the cross, so that all men including the ones pre-mentioned can have the opportunity of SOUL SALVATION through the remission of sins! (See Matt. 26:28; Luke 24:45-47; Heb. 2:9-13 and 5:8-9; 1Pet. 4:1-5; 2Pet. 3:1-18) But, we must be a member of his “PARTY”, thereby choosing him and doing things his way, for it would truly be a shame and an eternally grave mistake to dishonor such a sacrifice for us, by not utilizing such. As we continue further in this study, we will find that voting is a choice only given by man and not by God. We believe that soul salvation though, is a MUST, understanding the alternative; and it is given by the obedience of God through Christ, and his apostles, and NOT by man.

God has given instructions (has spoken) through Christ and his apostles as they were guided by the Holy Ghost, on how to deal with all those of authority. **VOTING** is not involved. To those that have been buried with Christ (**Rom.6:1-4, Col.2:12**), thereby putting on Christ in baptism (**Gal.3:21-29 note verse 27**), to those that have been baptized with The One baptism, into The One Body, The Church, The One Faith, which is of The One Spirit, must hear, obey, and follow Christ through his apostles on all issues (**Eph. 4:1-6; 1Pet.3:20-22; Matt.28:16-20; John17:16-26; Acts1:1-4 and 2:42; Eph.3:1-6 and 5:13-33; James1:21-27; 2Pet.2:1-22 and 3:1-17; 1John 4:1-6; Jude1:17-25**). This then would make us the peculiar ones, members of The One Church that Christ is building, (The Churches of Christ, The One Church by Christ, The One Church of God), which He purchased with His own blood, speaking the same things, not having any division among us. **Titus2:12-15; 1Pet.2:7-11; Matt.16:16- 18; Acts 2:47; Rom.16; 16-18; Eph.3:20-21; Acts20:27-30**. This is exactly what VOTING causes in The Church, DIVISIONS. Read Please: (**Rom.16:17-18, 1Cor.1:10-13, 1Cor.11:1-3, Gal.1:6-12, Phil.3:16-20, Phil.4:8-9, Col.2:6-10, 1John 2:18-19.**)

Now, let’s read The Lord’s instructions on how we as true Christians, are to deal with **ALL** authority; not just in this nation that is a little over 200 year old, but all authority in all nations. We, as true Christians, must remember these instructions were written over 2000 years ago, before the existence of this nation, and God is **not** a respecter of persons, (not one who discriminates) (**Matt. 28:16-20; Acts10:34-36**), **all nations under God** (**Acts 17:24-31**). We will start with **the example of Jesus Christ** and how he handled higher earthly powers that **were ordained of God** even though they were not followers of him, and were scripturally wrong, just as our world leaders are today. Noting his examples, as they were verified by his apostles, his followers i.e. Christians **must respect all world leaders** (higher powers) even if we don’t like them. **We must not kill them, vote them out or in, nor even disrespect them no matter what is done to us**. This is a hard saying; who can hear it, let alone do it? Only those that is willing to deny themselves and follow CHRIST will hear it and **strive** to do it. Remember as Christians; this is NOT our HOME (Phil.3:16-21)... **Ref. Scriptures:**

**John 10:17** Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. **18**

**No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.** This commandment have I received of my Father.(KJV)

**John 18:35** Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? **36 Jesus** answered, **My kingdom is not of this world:** if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: **but now is my kingdom not from hence.**(KJV)

**John 19:1** Then **Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.** **2** And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, **3** And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.(KJV)

**John 19:6** When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. **Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.**(KJV)

**John 19:9** And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. **10** Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? **11 Jesus answered,** Thou couldest have **no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:** therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.(KJV)

Now, we should understand by scripture that, even **Jesus our Lord and Saviour was subject to a higher earthly power**, which was **Pilate, God's minister**. Jesus attempted at no time to kill or remove Pilate from that office in any manner, for he had the power, "**John 18:36 Jesus** answered, **My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews...**" Christians must remember that, for Jesus to have even spoken ill of Pilate, let alone harm him, would have made him disobedient to his Father which was, and is, in heaven. For even though Pilate was not a follower of Christ, he was "God's minister", and Jesus knew that, as Christians i.e. followers of Christ must know this today, "**John 19: 10** Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? **11 Jesus answered,** Thou couldest have **no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:** therefore he that delivered me unto thee **hath the greater sin.**"

Let us look now at one that followed our Lord, the apostle Paul. Even though Ananias was not a Christian but, was the high priest of the Jews, at no time did the apostle Paul attempt to kill or remove him from that office in any manner. There were some that were called Christians at that time (**Acts11:26**), and in order for Ananias to be saved he had to be converted to one. The Jews were plotting to kill Paul (**Acts21:31and 22:22**), and Ananias had ordered those that stood by Paul to smite him on the mouth, even though he was trying to convert them to Christianity (**Acts26:21-32; Rom.10:1-21**). This caused Paul to be upset and spoke against higher powers not knowing who Ananias was. Even though Ananias was wrong; note Paul's reply and his submission.

**Acts 23:1** And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. **2** And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth. **3 Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall:** for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law? **4** And they that stood by said, Revilest thou **God's high priest?** **5** Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: **for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.**(KJV)

**2 Pet 2:9** The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: **10** But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and **despise government**. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. **11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.**(KJV)

Note: Even Michael the archangel respected the Devil as all should, in that he dared not to bring against him a railing accusation, for there is but one, more powerful than he. Here is our scriptural example ...

**Ref. Scriptures:**

**Jude 1:8** Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. **9 Yet Michael the archangel**, when contending **with the devil** he disputed about the body of Moses, **(1)durst not bring against him a (2)railing (3)accusation**, but said, **The Lord rebuke thee.** (KJV)

**Definitions:** **(1)durst** not-5111 tolmao (tol-mah'-o);from tolma (boldness; through the idea of extreme conduct); to venture; by implication, to be courageous: KJV-- be bold, boldly, **dare**, durst...**(2)railing-**988 blasphemia (blas-fay-me'-ah);from 989; vilification (especially against God): KJV-- blasphemy, evil speaking, railing...989 blasphemos (blas'-fay-mos); scurrilious, i.e. calumnious (against men), or (specially) impious (against God): KJV-- blasphemer (-mous), railing...**(3)accusation-2920** krisis (kree'-sis); decision (subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension, a tribunal; by implication, justice (especially, divine law): KJV-- accustion, condemnation, damnation, judgment.

With these examples before us; these same instructions are now given; on the respect of higher powers no matter who they are, or whether they are right or wrong; just as Jesus and Paul did. ... **Ref. Scriptures:**

**Rom 13:1** 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 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.(KJV) (see **John19:11**)

**1 Pet 2:13** Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; **14** Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. **15** **For so is the will of God**, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: **16** As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. **17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. 18** Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.(KJV)

We now understand, by the scriptural examples of those before us how we, as followers of Christ, must respect **all world powers, the leaders of all countries** (as being ordained by God). It does not matter if they are right or wrong, good or bad, Republicans or Democrats, etc. Some one asked the question once, **“If we do not vote and make our voices heard, how will government officials provide us with laws that will allow us to live in peace?”** My response was, “for those of us that have been baptized into Christ, thereby putting on Christ by the word, if it's God's will that we have peace; according to scripture this can **only** be done through prayer; thereby being right, righteous with God. Not voting, but prayer”. Please hear the apostle Paul; **“1 Tim 2:1** 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. 5** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” Remember though, God heareth not sinners: **John 9:31** Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.(KJV)

Why is it so hard for those that have put on Christ in baptism, to have faith in God? If we have obeyed the New Testament form of doctrine, then our faith should not be in men (**Jer.17:5-7**), but in God through Christ Jesus. What, we don't believe that Christ is the only mediator between God and man? We of so little faith **note verses 1, 2 and 5 of 1Tim.2...pray for all men ... pray for kings ...and for all that are in authority.** "Pray **with**," was not at any time used, for not all have obeyed the gospel, for not all have believed the Lord's report/instructions (**Rom.10:16-17**) and need the prayers of those that have. There is no need for true Christians to vote on any man. We appeal to the one that has all power, God through Christ Jesus. **Read Please Ref. Scriptures:**

**Eph 3:17** That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; **19** And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. **20** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, **21** Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.(KJV)

**Phil 3:20** For our **(1)conversation is in heaven;** from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (KJV)

**Definition:(1)conversation** is in heaven-4175 politeuma (pol-it'-yoo-mah); from 4176; a community, i.e. (abstractly) citizenship (figuratively): KJV—conversation, 1) the administration of civil affairs or of a commonwealth, 2) the constitution of a commonwealth, form of government and the laws by which it is administered, 3) a state, a commonwealth; the commonwealth of citizens...4176 politeuomai (pol-it-yoo'-om-ah-ee);middle voice of a derivative of 4177; to behave as a citizen (figuratively): KJV-- let conversation be, live.

**Col 2:8 Beware lest any man** spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, **after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.** **9** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: **11** In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: **12** **Buried with him in baptism,** wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.(KJV)

True Christians must follow scriptural command and or example, and **not traditions of men, such as voting.** We must not vote when scripture commands us to pray. Prayer is of God. I haven't found anywhere in New Testament scripture, command or example of Christ or his apostles, maneuvering anyone in or out of office of authority by any means or for any reason. Those that profess to be of Christ must remember that **we are not of this world even as Christ was not of the world (John 17:14-20)**, and that politics are. Politics are Earthly, Secular, Temporal, Mundane, and Fleshly and are of men. For politics; will not stand nor matter in the judgment, it will all pass away, (please hear the apostle John; 1John2:15-19). The scriptures teach us **not to mind** Earthly things. **Read Please Ref. Scriptures:**

**Matt 16:23** But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou **savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**(KJV)

**Phil 3:16** Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, **let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.** **17** Brethren, **be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.** **18** (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, **that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:** **19** Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, **who mind earthly things.**)

**Col 2:8 Beware** lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, **after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

NOTE THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE DEFINITIONS OF THE THREE WORDS BELOW.

**(1) pol·i·tic** (p<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>l<sup>41</sup>-t<sup>1</sup>k) *adj.* **1.** Using or marked by prudence, expedience, and shrewdness; artful.**3. Crafty; cunning.** --pol<sup>41</sup>-i·tic·ly

**(2) Po·lit·i·cal** 1. Of, relating to, or dealing with the structure or affairs of government, politics, or the state. **2. Relating to, involving, or characteristic of politics, parties, or politicians.** 3. Having or marked by a definite or organized policy or structure with regard to government.

**(3) pol·i·ti·cian** (p<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>l<sup>41</sup>-t<sup>1</sup>sh<sup>4</sup>...n) *n.* 1.a. One who is actively involved in politics, especially party politics. **b.** One who holds or seeks a political office. **2. One who seeks personal or partisan gain, often by scheming and maneuvering.** **3.** One who is skilled or experienced in the science or administration of government.

True Christians are not their own, and have been bought with a price. Christ is the buyer, the owner, and the husband. God has told us to hear him (Matt.17:1-8), and it is written that **we are not to be entangled with the affairs of this life.** The scriptures also teach us, how we should live in this present world. There is no mention of politics. **Read please Ref. Scriptures:**

**Matt 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **19** Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them **to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.(KJV)

**Acts 26:21** For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me. **22** Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those **which the prophets and Moses did say should come: 23 That Christ should suffer,** and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles. **24** And as he thus spake for himself, **Festus said** with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. **25** But he said, I am not mad, **most noble Festus;** but speak forth the **words of truth** and soberness. **26** For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner. **27 King Agrippa,** believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. **28** Then Agrippa said unto Paul, **Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.** **29** And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds. (KJV)

**1 Cor 6:19** **What?** know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own?** **20** For ye are **bought with a price:** therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (KJV)

**1 Cor 7:20** Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. **21** Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. **22** For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is **the Lord's freeman:** likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. **23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.** **24** Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.(KJV)

**2 Tim 2:1** Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **2** And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. **3** Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **4** **No man that**

warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. **5** And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

**Titus 2:11** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;** **13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify** unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. **15** These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

True Christians are called out of the **world** through baptism into Christ, and to the obedience of God through Christ Jesus and his apostles. We **MUST suffer to deny ourselves of the things we like in this world, take up our cross daily**, and follow Christ; thereby hating our lives here (Luke9:23-24; John12:24-26; James 4:4; 1John2:15-22). Again Prayer, while striving to live a 24/7 self denying lifestyle is how a Christian's voice is heard, and to the one who truly provides (God his Father and through Jesus Christ his Mediator, Master and Saviour). For when we choose not to deny ourselves, we deny Christ (antichrist). If we, as Christians, take this scriptural route of prayer as we have been commanded, we then would never be part of the wrong (the unscriptural "evil" things that our world leaders must allow, being of the world.) We would always be part of the good things through Christ and his apostles and by God our Father. There would never be **DIVISIONS** in **The Church** because of some being **REPUBLICANS** or **DEMOCRATS**, etc. This is why a true Christian is not to vote one in or out, but to pray world wide for whoever are in those positions. Again it does not matter if they are liked or not, good or bad, republicans or democrats, but pray for all men (**1Tim.2:1-4**).

The apostle Paul as he was guided by the Holy Ghost tells us to prove all things (**1Thes.5:21**), and Jesus said by what we are to use for proving: "**Matt 22:29** Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." Some might ask who will take care of the evil doers on earth. The apostle Peter as he was guided by the Holy Ghost is clear on this matter, world Higher Powers (**1Pet.2:13-15**). This can, and must be done without one professing to be a Christian, having to vote; thereby being right, righteous with God. This then allows the world to put in world leaders: While Christians pray; that **we** (Christians) may lead a quiet and peaceable life **in all godliness and honesty, (the salt of the earth: Matt.5:13-16; Eph.5:1-17)**. We pray to our Father, which is in heaven, for the opportunity to live this quiet and peaceable life; not to enjoy ourselves here, (please **hear Jesus; John12:24-26**). But, so that we can be about the business of saving souls; desiring that all men be saved; **by coming into the knowledge of the truth (1Tim.2:2-4), knowing there will only be few, (please hear Jesus: Matt.7:13-29; 20:16; 22:14; Luke 6:43-49)**. For we know by scripture the world will always have wars (**Matt.24:3-14**). The following scriptures will give **commands** and **examples** to **Christians**, on how to handle evil; these instructions are of course not by man, but by our Lord Jesus. For world leaders cannot, and will not suffer to obey these commands, that is if they want to stay in power or even alive. Note the **sufferings** that are involved:

#### **COMMANDS... Ref. Scriptures:**

**Matt 5:38** Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: **39 But I say unto you,** That ye **(1)resist not** evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.(KJV)

**Definition: (1) Resist not**-436 anthistemi-to stand against, i.e. oppose: KJV-- resist, withstand. (i.e. shun evil, **but not physically fight evil** see 2Cor.10:2-6; 2Tim.2:19-26; Titus3:1-3; 1Pet.3:11)

**Matt 5:43** Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt **love thy neighbour**, and **hate thine enemy.** **44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies**, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; **45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:** for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth

rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? **47** And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? **48** Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.(KJV)

**Acts 14:21** And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, **22** Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and **that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**

**Rom 12:14** Bless them which persecute you: **bles, and curse not.**(KJV)

**Rom 12:17** Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.**18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. **19** Dearly beloved, **avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath:** for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20** Therefore **if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink:** for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. **21** Be not overcome of evil, but **overcome evil with good.**(KJV)

**1 Pet 4:1** Forasmuch then as **Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2** That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.(KJV)

**EXAMPLES... Ref. Scriptures:**

**Luke 23:33** And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. **34** **Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them;** for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.(KJV)

**Acts 7:59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. **60** And he kneeled down, **and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.** And when he had said this, he fell asleep.(KJV)

**2 Tim 4:14** **Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: 15** Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words. **16** At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: **I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.**(KJV)

**1 Pet 2:19** For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. **20** For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. **21** For even hereunto were ye called: because **Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22** Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: **23** **Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.(KJV)

**Jude 1:9** Yet Michael the archangel, **when contending with the devil** he disputed about the body of Moses, **durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.**(KJV)

Once again if we noticed in the above scripture that even Michael the archangel when contending with, by God's intent a higher power, **the devil**, which is the god of this carnal world (Luke4:1-7; 2Cor.4:3-5; 11:13-15; Eph.6:11-13; Rev.13:6-9) respected him, and turned it over to the Lord. This is what we must do as Christians to be righteous, right with God and remember this:

**1 Pet 3:11** Let him **(1)eschew** evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. **12** **For the eyes of the Lord are over the (2)righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers:** but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. **13** And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

**14** But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;(KJV)

**Definitions:** (1) **Eschew**-1) to turn aside, to deviate 2) to turn (oneself) away, to turn away from, to keep aloof from one's society 3) to shun one. (2) **Righteous-observing divine laws.** a) in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God. 3) used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God.4) approved by or acceptable by God

Last, but by all means not least, we as followers of Christ must know and remember who the god of this world is. We through scripture will also read how his power came about, and what we should do to stay out of his grasp. Read Please:

### **THE GOD OF THIS WORLD, (THE DEVIL)... Ref. Scriptures:**

**2 Cor 4:3** But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: **4** In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.(KJV)

**Eph 2:1** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; **2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

**Eph 6:11** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, **but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**(KJV)

**I Jn 5:19** And we know that we are of God, and the whole world **(1)lieth in wickedness.**(KJV)

**Definition:** (1)**lieth** in wickedness-2749 keimai-2) metaphorically: a) to be (by God's intent) set,, that is, destined, appointed c) lies in the power of the Evil One,, that is, is held in subjection by the Devil

### **POWER GIVEN HIM, (THE DEVIL)... Ref. Scriptures:**

**Luke 4:1** And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and **was led by the Spirit into the wilderness**, **2** Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. **3** And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. **4** And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. **5** And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, **shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world** in a moment of time. **6** And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. **7** If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.(KJV)

**Rev 12:8** And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. **9** And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

**Rev 12:12** Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you**, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. **13** And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.(KJV)

**Rev 13:7** And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. **8** And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the

world. **9** If any man have an ear, let him hear.(KJV)

## WHAT CHRISTIANS MUST DO TO KEEP OUT OF HIS GRASP, (THE DEVIL)... Ref. Scriptures:

**Eph 6:11** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Not a fleshly armour of war, not a voting machine, but, The Word of God and prayer!)

**1 Tim 1:18** This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; **19** Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: (KJV)

**2 Tim 2:2** And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. **3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.**(KJV)

**James 4:3**Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. **4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.(KJV)

**1 Jn 2:15** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, **the love of the Father is not in him. 16** For **all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.** **17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**(KJV)

It seems as though when the Church is given the opportunity to be the peculiar people, the salt of the earth (those striving to circumspectly follow God through Christ and his apostles, thereby being the light of the world), we almost always fail (**Matt.5:13-16; Eph.5:12-17; Titus2:14; 1Pet.2:9-10**). For some reason, the Church does not like peculiarity, but enjoys similarity. The Church does not like to be the light, but enjoys darkness. Is it because we do not want to suffer as our Lord did, and those that followed him? This is neither the mind of Christ, nor the look of Christ and we should be ashamed. We are the salt that has lost its savor. We need to get back in the scriptures and be the sojourners, peculiar people, and the **(1)salt** of the earth; thereby being The Light of the world. We need to be “an example of **the** believers” as God through Christ and his apostles has commanded... **Ref. Scriptures:**

**Definition: (1)salt** of the earth-217 halas (hal'-as);from 251; salt; figuratively, prudence, restraint, caution, precaution, foresight, vigilance, circumspection: KJV-- salt.

**Eph 5:13** But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. **14** Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. **15** See then that ye walk **(1)circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise, **16** Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. **17** Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. (KJV)

**Definition: (1)circumspectly** 199 akribos (ak-ree-boce');adverb from the same as 196; exactly: KJV-- circumspectly, diligently, perfect (-ly), accurately.

**1 Tim 4:8** For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. **9** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. **10** For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. **11** These things command and teach. **12** Let no man despise thy youth; **but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.** **13** Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (KJV)

**1 Tim 4:15** Meditate upon these things; **give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.** **16** Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; **continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.** (KJV)

**Rom 12:17** Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. **18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. **19** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. **20** Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. **21** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. (KJV)

**2 Cor 10:1** Now I Paul myself beseech you **by the meekness and gentleness of Christ**, who in presence **am base among you**, but being absent am bold toward you: **2** But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. **3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: **4** **(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal**, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) **5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; **6** And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (KJV)

Contrary to what some, if not most believe, **Rom.12:18** doesn't mean if you can't live peacefully, it's OK to fight, for our fight **must** be a scriptural/spiritual one. We, as **true** Christians, must suffer wrong. We must not harm, fight, kill or joyfully support those that do. Christians are to be killed, and to suffer wrong. **Please hear Jesus and his apostles: Luke 23:34; Acts 7:59-60; 1Cor. 6:7-8; 1Thes.5:15; 1Pet.2:19-23; 1Pet.3:9.** Christians, i.e. followers of God through Christ and his apostles must be the doves, the lambs, the little ones, just as our Lord was; meek and gentle unto all men, also as those that followed him: **(Please hear Jesus and his apostles: Matt.10:16; Matt.21:1-7; Mark9:42-50; John10:7-16; Acts20:29-38; Phil.2:12-16; 1Thes.2:1-9; 2Tim.2:19-20; Titus3:1-3; Heb.7:22-27; James 3:13-18 and 4:1-10; 1Pet.2:18-25).** **1 Pet 4:17** For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? **18** And if the righteous **(1)scarcely** be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? **19** Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. (KJV)

**Definition:** (1)And if the righteous **scarcely** be saved 3433 molis (mol'-is); probably by var. for 3425; with difficulty, 2) not easily, that is, scarcely, very rarely: KJV-- hardly, scarce (-ly), + with much work.

We **MUST** remember according to scripture, Christians are “legal aliens” on the earth (1Pet.1:13-19 and chapter 2 verse 11), for we were born here. But being born again in Christ Jesus by being buried with Him in baptism (Rom.6:1-9; Col.2:8-12; 1Pet.3:20-22), we **MUST** rise up a new man, a new creature. Please hear the apostle Paul; Rom.12:1-2; 2Cor.5:16-17; Gal.6:14-18; Eph.4:20-24; Col.3:1-17. We **MUST** use our **OLD EARTHLY** citizenship only as our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the apostles, and others that followed them; because after baptism our conversation, (citizenship) is in heaven, but we must go to work! Let's listen to Jesus: **Luke 2:49** And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? **John 4:33** Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? **34** Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. **John 9:4** I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. **John 17:3** And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. **4** I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Even though Jesus' Kingdom was and is not of this world, some seem to have thought that he might not pay **taxes**. Again, let's here Jesus: **Matt 22:16** And they sent out unto him their 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. Even though Jesus said, “give **tribute** unto Caesar”, which were taxes, it is scripturally clear that he reaped not the full benefit of being a citizen, by loving his life here, for he was “a man of sorrows”, (**hear the prophecy; Isah.53:1-12**). He was born in a manger (feed trough), and not in an inn (lodge), (**see Christ; Luke 2:1-16**). He had not the advantage of even good transportation, being at that time King of the Jews, which is now the savior of all men that obey him (**Heb.5:5-19**). But, of one of the roughest riding animals it was, no horses, chariots or men bearers, (**please see Christ; Matt.21:1-9**). The Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ did not even have a place to lay his head, please hear Christ: **Luke 9:57** And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. **58** And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. **59** And he said unto another, **Follow me**. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. **60** Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. **61** And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. **62** And **Jesus said unto him, No man**, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Jesus and those that followed him must have truly HATED their lives here, especially being TAX PAYERS (tribute). Some say “people have died so that we can have the opportunity to vote”. But according to scriptures, Christ suffered to live a self-denying lifestyle while here on earth that ended most cruelly in death on the cross, so that ALL men can have the opportunity of SOUL SALVATION! And as those that followed him before us suffered to obey him, so MUST we as Christians, do today for Christ’s sake. His words (the One that died) will JUDGE ALL men, in the Last Day!!! Listen to Jesus Christ: “**John 12:47** And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. **48** He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. **49** For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. **50** And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.” He says pray, not vote!!

The apostle Paul had to use his “old earthly citizenship” on several occasions, and of course it was **only** for spiritual reasons. He used this so that he would be free to live in peace, to preach the gospel for the saving of SOULS and to attend to the things of the Lord, without distractions; just as Christians must do today: **Acts 16:29** Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, **30** And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? **31** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. **32** And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. **33** And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. **34** And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. **35** And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go. **36** And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace. **37** But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out. (KJV) (Please read all of chapters 16; 21; 22). **Acts 23:27** This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman. (KJV) (Please read all of chapter 23).

Remember Christians must use their “old earthly citizenship” **only** as a WORK VISA, just as those before us. For this earth is a Christian’s work place; for the purpose of being able to move about on it peacefully if possible, to work out our soul salvation and then go home to our Father, which is in HEAVEN; Please

hear the apostles Paul and Peter; **Phil 2:12** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. **14** Do all things without murmurings and disputings: **15** That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; **16** Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. (Please hear James 1:21-27 and 2:17-26). **1 Pet 1:13** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **14** As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: **15** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; **16** Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. **17** And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your **(1)sojourning** here in **(2)fear**: **18** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: **1 Pet 2:11** Dearly beloved, I beseech you as **(3)strangers** and **(4)pilgrims**, abstain from (5)fleshly (6)lusts, which war against the soul;  
**Definitions:** **(1)**your **sojourning** here-3940 paroikia (par-oy-kee'-ah);from 3941; foreign residence: KJV-- sojourning, X as strangers...3941 paroikos (par'-oy-kos);from 3844 and 3624; having a home near, i.e. (as noun) a by-dweller (alien resident): KJV-- foreigner, sojourn, stranger.

**(2)**in **fear** 5401 phobos (fob'-os);from a primary phebomai (to be put in fear); alarm or fright: KJV-- be afraid, + exceedingly, fear, terror, dread.

**(3)**as **strangers**-3941 paroikos-1) dwelling near, neighboring, 2) in the New Testament, a stranger, a foreigner, one who lives in a place without the right of citizenship, 3) metaphorically: a) without citizenship in God's kingdom, b) one who lives on earth as a stranger, a sojourner on the earth, c) used of Christians whose home is in heaven

**(4)**and **pilgrims**-3927 parepidemos-1) one who comes from a foreign country into a city or land to reside there by the side of the natives, 2) a stranger, 3) sojourning in a strange place, a foreigner, 4) in the New Testament, metaphorically, in reference to heaven as the native country, one who sojourns on earth

**(5)**abstain from **fleshly**-4559 sarkikos (sar-kee-kos');from 4561; pertaining to flesh, i.e. (by extension) the bodily as oppose to the soul [or spirit], temporal, or (by implication) animal, unregenerate: KJV-- carnal, fleshly, (secular and worldly).

**(6)****lusts** which war against the soul-1939 epithumia-desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust

See also Heb.11:13-16 and **Heb 12:28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: **29** For our God is a consuming fire.)

**Dear reader remember what JESUS said in John 8:47** “He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God”.

Now ask yourself this question, who is, or is willing to be a faithful Christian? For Jesus said there will be FEW; Matt.7:13-29; Matt.20:16 and 22:14. **Luke 6:46** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (KJV) (See also verses 47-49)

**CHRISTIAN, CHRISTIANITY THE MOST MISAPPLIED, MISUSED, MISUNDERSTOOD, AND ABUSED WORDS, ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!!!**

Dear readers remember as always, the purpose of these articles is to seek the TRUTH according to THE WORD, thereby exposing ERROR, for the purpose of saving our souls. We believe this is best done by definitions and the PREPONDERANCE OF SCRIPTURES; which is having superior weight, force, importance, or influence of SCRIPTURE. Again we believe this allows SCRIPTURE to INTERPRET SCRIPTURE, thereby allowing a better understanding on that topic. Again, thank you so much for your interest in the **WORD of TRUTH**; GRACE and SALVATION; John 17:17-21; Acts 20:29-32; James 1:21-25. After all it is our MAP to HEAVEN and away from HELL, and the continuance in it, is the ONLY thing that allows the man of God to be perfect, 2Tim.3:12-17!

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