



THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

THIS WEEK AT THF

▶ TUESDAY

THF College - Group Dinner
7:00pm-9:00pm

▶ WEDNESDAY

THF Students - Worship & Small Groups
7:00pm-8:30pm ~ Doors open at 6:30pm

▶ THURSDAY

THF Men - Bible Study & Fellowship
6:30am-7:30am

UPCOMING AT THF

▶ OCTOBER 6

MEN'S BBQ COOKOFF - Sign up online or
with QR Code in the Mall

September 22, 2024

Please continue to check all
of our social media outlets
and our website for updates to
weekly activities and Sunday Services.

www.theheightsfellowship.org

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

September 15, 2024

BUDGET GIVING: \$14,718.00

BUDGET NEEDS: \$18,919.00

YEAR TO DATE

BUDGET GIVING: \$707,901.34

BUDGET NEEDS: \$697,301.00

DECISION

The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill.

Proverbs 11:11 tlb



Does It Really Matter Anyway?

In the course of human history it has rarely been afforded a nation to legitimately choose its leadership, but the Bible makes a case that when we have the chance, we SHOULD EMBRACE THE PROCESS AND DO IT!

21 ...you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 22 And let them judge the people at all times.

CAN MAKE A CASE FOR GODLY MEN/WOMEN TO BE A PART OF THE PROCESS AND VIE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE Exodus 18:21-22 nkj

2 And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. Acts 6:2-3 niv

The Biblical Teaching is Consistent

Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities... - Paul (Rom 13)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors... - Peter (1 Peter 2)

"...render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's..." - Jesus (Matt 22)

Yeah, but it was easier then... Romans 13:1-7

Government in 'Bible Days' -

- A **Representative Republic** was almost completely **UNKNOWN**
- Rule was most often **ABSOLUTE**
- In **NT Rome**, Caesar was not only king, but he was considered GOD
- In **NT Israel**, Herod possessed almost absolute **POWER**
- Abuse and persecution of believers was both PERMISSABLE and even SANCTIONED by empire and local officials!

Culture in 'Bible Days' -

- Poverty was **RAMPANT**
- There was almost no SOCIAL JUSTICE
- **SLAVERY** was prolific and widespread
- Military occupation and presence was **CONSTANT** and **OPPRESSIVE**
- TAXATION was out of control

In that political and cultural climate, the Holy Spirit told the church: Everyone must **submit** to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. Romans 13:1 niv

submit = Gk:hupotasso -

tasso = to LINE UP; hupo - UNDER

Bible Civics

1 GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED BY GOD, NOT MAN!

For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. (13:1 nas)

- ✓ The **INSTITUTION** of government is ordained by God **APART**
- ✓ **INDIVIDUAL** governments do not exist or operate _____ from the sovereignty and oversight of God (Prov 21:1)
- ✓ Even **INDIVIDUAL LEADERS** are established by God Dan 2:21

2 GOD WILL GIVE PEOPLE OVER TO BAD LEADERSHIP IF THEY INSIST

...the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. 8 Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day — in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also. 1 Samuel 8:7-8

3 REMEMBER - YOU MAY LIVE HERE,

BUT YOUR PRIMARY CITIZENSHIP IS SOMEWHERE ELSE!

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. **CF EPH 2:19** Philippians 3:20-21 esv

What They Are Not Telling You...

There is a spiritual battle 'BEHIND THE SCENES' in every government in the world!

13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. **CF DANIEL 12:11** Daniel 10:12-13

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

Two Strategies to Flourish:

PRAY 1 Timothy 2:1-3

SUBMIT YOURSELF TO THE LORD 1 Peter 2:13-14; Daniel 9:3-ff

THF LIFENotes

9-22-24

1. Read Romans 13:1-7 and I Peter 2:13-17. Discuss with your group why Mike calls these two passages “Big Boy Theology.”
2. Compare and contrast the understanding of “Government” in Bible Days versus our experience of “Government” today. Discuss with your group.
3. Romans 13 establishes that God’s intention for government was five-fold:
 - Protect People
 - Preserve Life
 - Protect Property
 - Protect Against Crime
 - Reward Virtue and Goodness

How well are we succeeding in accomplishing God’s intent for government in the United States? How is our government failing in realizing these intentions? Discuss with your group.

4. What principle can be applied when reading I Samuel 8:6-9? How might this principle apply to our current governmental status?
5. Moving forward as a believer, how will you pray and what instruction do you need to obey in response to “BAD” government?