

## We Belong to the Lamb – 11-6-2024

Jesus was asked about politics in **Mark 12**. Should we pay tax to Caesar?

- Notice it was a trap. Getting involved in political rhetoric will trap us.
  - Beware - catch inconsistencies, stir hate not love, them/us, etc.
  - Most important Q is not **Who did U vote for?** **Who do U belong to?**
- Here is what we can **learn** from that Q/A – there is a place for Gov't, but we **also live** under another higher authority.
  - Caesar exists, but so does God.
  - We live in this world, but believers of God aren't of this world.
    - **John 17** – Jesus prayed for His disciples - **15**I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. **16**[They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.](#)
- We – followers of Jesus - are foreigners living in a strange land.
  - Yep, it often feels strange; supposed to be that way.
  - **Ecc 3:11** – God has planted eternity in hearts ... won't feel home here.
    - Take a fish, lay it on a river bank . . . not going to get used to it.
- Put past few months into perspective:
  - Presidencies will come/go. (4y) Statutes will repeal/amended/revised.
  - God's kingdom & authority is greater; will stand forever.

**\*\* We live both **horizontally & vertically**. Our horizontal relationship/dealings stem from our vertical relationship.**

### The Horizontal:

Duty to live and coexist w/Gov't. Pay tax and move on.

Ultimately, we like the apostles “must obey God rather than men.” **Acts 5:29**.

- **Ex. 1:17** – Midwives defied Egyptian king's order – when helping Hebrew women give birth, kill the baby if it's a boy. They feared God, didn't do it.
- **Daniel 6** – Pray only to King Darius or be thrown into Lion's Den.
- **Acts 5** – apostles told not to teach about Jesus; did anyway.
  - Duty to obey laws of Gov't, but our duty extends to higher Authority
  - We must do what is right, regardless of what a law says.
    - Frankly, we break laws regularly: Speeding. Cell phone. Litter. Seatbelt. Jaywalking. Obstruction of correspondence. Drugs? Access unsecured WiFi w/o prior authorization.

- Point is – there's a rightful zone of Gov't activity - to establish order for society, establish justice, common defense, promote the general welfare.
- Yet **understand there is another authority behind that authority.**
  - o There's a Gov't on the shoulders of Jesus – another Kingdom: a Gov't that will **increase, greater** than all, established w/**justice**, sustained by **righteousness**, peace **forever**. Jesus reigns/throne. Forever kingdom.
    - We live according to a higher law. . . God's law. Right/Wrong
    - Jesus taught us how to live . . . Sermon/ Mount. **Matt. 5-6**

### The Vertical:

World law: do not commit murder. In Jesus' Kingdom: no not be angry.

World view: do not commit adultery. Jesus: keep lust out of your heart.

World view: don't break your oath/vow. Jesus: have an honest yes/no.

World view: eye for an eye/tooth. Jesus: forgive; turn the other cheek.

World view: love neighbor, hate enemy. Jesus: love all; pray for them.

Christians – Jesus' lovers, believers, followers - Higher calling, higher authority.

- We **live for the future**, not the **present**.
- We **live for a King**, not a **president**.
- We live for **another Kingdom**, **not of this world**, one that is to come.

**Revelation 5** describes that future for us. In heaven, a scroll that is sealed with 7 seals is brought out . . . and no one was worthy to open the scroll. John wept.

- But an elder said to John, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." – **Rev. 5:5**
- The **Elders of heaven** sang a new song, **Rev 5:9-10** - with the blood of Jesus, he "purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup>You have made them to be a kingdom . . ."
- <sup>11</sup>Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup>In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" <sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

- We belong to the Lamb. Lamb is on the throne.
- We are part of the Greatest Kingdom that will endure forever.

**Rev. 7:9-10** – “. . . I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the **Lamb**. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the **Lamb**.”

Who are the ones wearing white robes? The answer –

**Rev. 7:** <sup>14</sup> “. . . “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and **made them white** in the blood of the **Lamb**.  
<sup>15</sup> Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.  
<sup>16</sup> ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the **Lamb** at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’  
 ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

- That is the promise of Heaven – to be in the presence of God. To be nourished with springs of living water.

**Rev. 19:9** - <sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”

**Conclusion:** No matter who is President, Jesus is King.  
 We belong to the Lamb – we wear white - we are looking toward the Kingdom that is to come.