

SUCCESS, OR OFF COURSE?

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OKAY, YOU AMERICAN CHRISTIANS have successfully secured your choice of politician. Now you can get back to what's important – to what God told you to do! Jesus refused His followers' demands that He allow them to crown Him earthly king of Israel, and take up a throne in Jerusalem. If that had been God's intent for Jesus, He could have taken up royal robes, said, "Tetelesti (Aramaic for, "It is finished)," and wouldn't have had to die for us! Instead, Jesus waited until He was about to die on that cross before He said, "Tetelesti," (I have finished the work You, Father, sent me to do), and gave up the Ghost. This, despite the fact that Jesus had taught us to pray, "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven!" If Jesus' work on earth was to LEGISLATE that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven, Jesus missed the mark by refusing the throne, and going to the cross; ascending to an earthly throne, as His disciples insisted, would have done the job exactly! But Jesus' legislating God's will on earth, and enforcing it through the police and law courts, and even His legions of angels, would have been the easy way out. And a complete failure in His Father's eyes.

20 And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, He answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:
21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Luke 17: 20-21 THE BIBLE

If God had been desirous of legislating righteousness He could have but spoken the command. Indeed, one of those disciples who'd insisted on Jesus' cooperation with their plan to take advantage of the populist movement that was Jesus, and foment an upset of the establishment, throwing out the elite, draining the swamp, actually attempted it by force of arms. But,

52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

52 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Matthew 26:52 THE BIBLE

The Father's plan wasn't to take the world by earthly means and establish His rule on earth by political or military force! He of course could have, if He had wished to; He had all the power in the universe

behind Him! (Indeed, God doesn't need our help, and He certainly doesn't ask us for help!)

12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is Mine, and the fulness thereof.)
Psalm 50:12 THE BIBLE

Rather, God's kingdom is heavenly, and of the heart:

6 Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice. 9 Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:6,7,10 THE BIBLE

Jesus' mandate, the great commission that He gave to His followers both present and future, was to,

15b ...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Acts 16:15b-16 THE BIBLE

Jesus' commission to His followers was to change hearts, not to change and enforce legislation. Enacting legislation that more closely reflects Godliness than legislation passed by, "the other guys," certainly might force society to commit fewer outward sins, make society more peaceful, or make some people feel safer. But enacting such legislation is possible by non-Christian as well as Christian; it is not necessarily a, "Christian," thing; it simply makes sense. And whatever society enacts such legislation will enable the blessings that come from acting in concert with the natural order of God's creation. It is not fulfilling the Great Commission; it is not pursuing the mandate God has required of the Church. Too often, when we lobby for, "conservative," politics we get caught up in the trap of feeling we are fulfilling God's great directive for His people, and we forget His Great Commission. Conservative politics is just as possible from non-Christian as from Christian. It is not necessarily Godliness. Forcing, "nice," or "good," or, "conservative," legislation (orders) upon others isn't God's mandate for the Christian. It will not get for him from the mouth of our Lord, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," or else every non-Christian conservative activist would receive those same words from Jesus, alongside the saved! That Word of praise from Jesus' lips is only for His servants, those who are born again! It is not, "Stop abortion because it is murder," that is fulfilling the Great Commission, but, "Stop abortion because it is sin," that will gain a Spiritual, eternal reward for its preacher. The Christian and non-Christian can both speak the first; only the Christian would speak the latter. The Christian is commissioned to PREACH THE GOSPEL, not demand/order/legislate conservative politics or laws upon the people of this earth. If we were commissioned to legislate righteousness God would have provided His angelic, "strong men," to enforce it. The Christian may perhaps get involved in politics, but that is NOT his Commission from God! The Christian's mandate from God, his battleground, his area of assignment from God, is the sinner's HEART, just as it was Jesus' assignment from God. Jesus preached against sin, not merely against liberalism. He preached, "Repent," not, "vote!" How the church has lost its way! Just as it might have been nice and pleasant to have Jesus call in His angels and legislate a Godly kingdom on earth, it would be nice for the Christian Church to be able to legislate a conservative, Biblical set of laws on earth. But

that is not GOD's style. Jesus refused the lesser, temporary, regional, and earthly legislature for the greater, eternal, universal, and heavenly kingdom.

It's only by the preaching of, "GODLY righteousness," that the believer can expect to hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!" The pastor who abandons the ministry to pursue a political career is choosing the lesser over the greater, the temporary and regional over the eternal and universal, and the earthly over the heavenly. If the Christian advocates for, "Family Values," rather than for, "Godliness," he is giving up his reward. Any *non-Christian* can advocate for, "Family Values;" that's not Godliness, nor the Christian's commission. Only the *Christian* can preach the Gospel. And expect a, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!" Modern Christianity is abandoning the Godly, and choosing the legislative. In so doing, modern Christianity is no better than the Roman Catholics, who seek to establish an earthly kingdom, and who have forgotten the message of the Gospel. We are now offering the unsaved a mere political ideology, and cheating him out of the Gospel we were commissioned by God to preach to him! Jesus said, "What doth it profit a man if he should gain the whole world, but lose his soul?" What doth it spiritually profit the Christian or the church, if he should gain the legislative chambers of the whole world, but lose the world's souls? If the Church abandons the preaching of the Gospel for the rhetoric of the politician we shall suffer the wrath of God, Who commissioned us to preach righteousness rather than a, "Social Gospel."

It is the Christian's mandate from God, his Great Commission, to preach conversion of the heart, not the conversion of legislation. It is easy to lose sight: legislation and securing of constitutional rights is far more pleasant and easy than preaching what one often cannot touch, taste, or see the results of this side of heaven. The Roman Catholics lost their Godly focus, and gained vast political and financial might. And lost the Gospel, the Great Commission, and even their very souls.