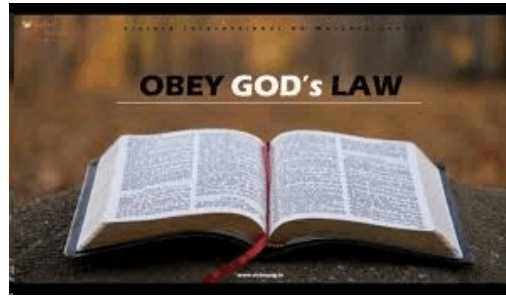


THE GOVERNMENT AND LAW OF GOD



There is one topic that I would like to talk about that has to do with something I studied when I was in college. I do not know if many of you know, but I did do a double major in Political Science and International Studies during my undergraduate years at the University of Kansas. Also, I did a master's degree in Public Policy with Liberty University.

Now, this is kind of interesting to me because personally, I do not like the subject of politics at all, and in fact, it is incredibly frustrating when most of the people I either work with or studied with are very liberal in their own mind, and being a Christian makes it even that more difficult.

Now, politics and public policy are very polarizing subjects, especially with the political environment we see in the United States today. You only have to turn on the television, listen to the radio talk show hosts, read any newspaper, magazine, blog, and of course, the phenomenon of social media with the internet to see some of the most bizarre opinions, advice, and analysis that according to the news outlets, is the best thing possible for us to view. One aspect in specific that comes to mind, especially with the U.S. Presidential elections among us, among all of the races in each state,

is the ongoing debate between what the role of government should be, and, what is the necessary rule of law that needs to be done in this country. There are those who believe the U.S. should maintain itself as is, as the Founding Fathers intended for this nation to be, with limited government intervention, and a faith-based, Judeo-Christian way of ruling the American people.

However, it seems that with each passing year, the increased liberal, far-left agenda wants to separate the American political scenario, and systematically transform our nation into one of socialist, and communist views, far from believing in the mandates established with Biblical principles, and our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus the Christ that our country was founded upon. It seems that each and every day, there is the inevitable discussion, argument, fighting, bickering, or whatever the word of the day is with the news, as to what needs to be in the best interest of the American people. The people of this nation are fixated in believing that the best form of government is brought forth by man itself, and that is the root of where all the problems begin for this nation.

If this nation would get on its knees, and prayed to God daily

for His intervention in anything and everything that is related to our government, this nation would not be going through what it is going through today, and there would be no division among its own citizens with no apparent respect for the rule of law.

We are going to be looking at how the role of government and the rule of law, as outlined by the Holy Scriptures we have today, are needed to be based with putting God first, above all else, and that without His blessing, there can be no effective government and rule of law put in place. The government of God is based on spiritual characteristics that need to be taken into consideration first, and then, the application of these principles with mankind need to be done to effectively have any form of government put in place. The government of God is something we need to be striving for, something we need to be acknowledging, and something we need to be praying for, daily. Also, the Law of God will be looked at from three different perspectives that will help us understand how important it is for us to have in mind the laws of God, for a successful and triumphant government. First, we will look at the love we need to have for God's law. Second, we will be looking at

the practice of Christ's fulfillment of the law. Thirdly, we will be looking at how God's law is spiritual, and how the spiritual aspect of God's law is to be put into practice in our daily routine.

Let us look at some background with the two words we will be looking at for today's sermon, government, and law. According to Webster's Dictionary, the word government has several meanings:

1. The body of persons that constitutes the governing authority of a political unit, or organization
2. The complex of political institutions, laws, and customs through which the function of governing is carried out.
3. The office, authority, or function of governing

Also, the word government has several meanings with the Strong Concordance:

1. Strong's Concordance 2941 from the Greek word **kubernésis** meaning *steering, government, administration*
2. Strong's Concordance 4951 from the Hebrew word **misrah** meaning *rule, dominion*
3. Strong's Concordance 2963 from the Greek word **kuriotes** meaning *dominion government*

Now, let us look at the word law. Webster's Dictionary defines the word law with several meanings:

1. A rule of conduct or action prescribed or formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority

2. A rule or order that it is advisable or obligatory to observe

3. The revelation of the will of God set forth in the Old Testament, the first part of the Jewish scriptures

Also, the word law has different meanings in the Strong's Concordance:

1. Strong's Concordance 3551 from the Greek word **nomos** meaning *that which is assigned, hence usage, law*
2. Strong's Concordance 8452 from the Hebrew word **torah** meaning *law*
3. Strong's Concordance 1772 from the Greek word **ennomos** meaning *legal, subject to law*

These definitions provide an example as to how mankind sees fit the definitions of both government, and law. To mankind, government and law are interconnected with each other, however, there is a dividing consensus as to the correct way to implement both, just take a look at all of the different laws governing the U.S., and not just the U.S., but all of the countries around the world itself! There are literally thousands upon thousands of laws outlined in thousands of books throughout the vast regions of the world. But, all of them miss the most critical points that can be applied in our lives today, and that is that the Government and Law of God is not based on what man *thinks* is best for him, but what God already *knew* in His plan to make a system of government that is spiritually the best possible scenario for mankind in the first place.

Let us begin by looking at the Book of Isaiah 9:6 (Here the prophet Isaiah is writing about the prophecy of the Son of God): "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace". These words as written by Isaiah present the prophecy we have read about before in these familiar verses. Isaiah is setting the stage for the government that will be from the birth of Jesus Christ. The government will be upon the shoulder of Christ because Jesus will carry the way of rule for mankind in the future. Isaiah points this concept and analogy of the shoulder because it is foreshadowing that Christ will do during his time here on this earth, by literally putting all of the weight of mankind into His shoulders, and shouldering the burden of sins made by every living person that has ever lived. Also, the government of the future, once Christ returns to this earth a second time, will be with Him as well because Christ is an important component of the Government and Law of God.

Let us read the Book of 1 Corinthians 12:28 (Here Paul is writing about the different roles God has made in the church): "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues". Paul outlines in this part to the Corinthian church the key roles that needed to be readily available for the church. The

concept of government is also included because he acknowledged that God Himself put the role of the government in place to make us understand the nature of needing to have a system of governance in place. Also, the government in place would have to conform to the spiritual governance as well, and stay away from the elements of human nature.

Let us explore more of that in the Book of 2 Peter 2:10 (Here we will read about Peter detailing a warning from false prophets, and how it connects with people today): “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”. Peter writes something that could have been taken from today’s weekly news. There is a great and vast amount of people within the government that walk in the flesh, they are of unclean spirit, and there are people that despise any form of government and authority. There are truly some things that never change, and that phrase is as evident now, as it was during biblical times. People are certainly not afraid to speak evil of the people in power, let’s just look at the amount of evil, hatred, and outspoken lies that we read, listen, or watch every day during any kind of opinion or talk show host. There can be no government of God without regard for authority because God is our Almighty God and Father, and He is at the center of what our government should be centered around in, and not any person that thinks mankind should be first.

Reading Romans 12:8 (Here we will read about a proper rule of government): “Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness”. Clearly this verse needs to be applied into the Government of God because it is not how things are happening in America today. I cannot remember the last time anything was done with due diligence in this country, and it is a sad statement to make because of the few people left that are God-fearing in their hearts and minds. There can be no due diligence made on the part of the Government of God, if there is no regard for the Law of God to begin with. Let us look at the first part of the Law of God, as it relates to His government, and that is to have an unconditional love for God’s Law. Let us go back to the Old Testament, to the Book of Psalms 119:113 (a very short verse, but with a powerful meaning written by David): “I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.” Continuing in Psalms 119:174: “I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight”. David presents two unique characteristics when describing the following of God’s laws. He writes two short, but powerful messages, clear and to the point for all of us to understand. We need to love God’s Law, plain and simple because there can be no effective role for us in God’s government, if we do not obey God’s statutes and commandments written in Scripture. Also, God’s Law should create joy in us because of the abundance of amusement evident in knowing that

we are doing things in our life as God wants, not how man thinks it needs to be done.

Let us continue in the Old Testament, this time in the Book of Proverbs 13:12-15: “Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life. Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.” We cannot allow for our hope and faith in God to fade away, it needs to be with us at all times. Our Christian fortitude is based on obeying God’s Law, and having the fear of the Lord creates a reward for us because we are His called out Christians. We need to take the words of Solomon, and apply them as part of our practice in fulfilling God’s instructions to us.

The second area for today, regarding the Law of God is that we need to practice Christ’s fulfillment of the Law. Our Lord and Savior lived on this earth, and fulfilled the promise of bringing salvation to all of mankind. Because our Messiah was tasked with bringing this task to life, and with completing its purpose, the element of fulfilling the Law brought forth by God was something that was inherently important to do, and the example of the fulfillment of the Law of God is evident in Scripture. Looking over to the New Testament once again, to the Book of Matthew 5:16-19 (Here we will read about Jesus Christ doing his teachings on the mountains): “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your

Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

The teachings of Jesus Christ are an integral part of the fulfillment of His purpose with God’s Law. Christ understood that He did not want to change what the law already had established. But, He knew He was part of the process of the fulfillment of the Law of God because it was how God designed the process in the first place. Also, the process of how mankind should view the fulfillment of Christ’s words is also important because it denotes the critical importance of doing the good works, and within those works, is the fulfillment of following the commandments. Reading the Book of Romans 3:18-25 (Here we will read several key and familiar verses set forth by Paul): “There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the

law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference; For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

These words, as written by Paul highlight important aspects of the fulfillment of the law by Christ that we can put into practice today. For example, we all know that all of mankind has come short of the glory of God because of our imperfect selves through sin in our lives. However, we know that we are redeemed by Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, in that He fulfilled the promise and prophecy of redeeming our sins for all of us who have ever lived. Christ’s sacrifice is the very fulfillment of the separation between those who believe, and the nonbelievers. Turning to the Book of Galatians 3:21-24: “Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might

be justified by faith.”

We read that the law is not against the promises of God to mankind, and that our belief in Jesus Christ, through our own faith, needs to be implemented at all times. The same faith and ability that Christ demonstrated is the one we need to put into practice in our lives today. There can no fulfillment of the practice of Jesus Christ in our lives, if there is no faith in our lives. In addition to the faith we need to have, there is also one other trait we must use in the practice of fulfillment of Christ. Reading Galatians 5:14: “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” And in James 2:8: “If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.” This commandment that we have set before us characterizes an important element of understanding the fulfillment of Christ’s purpose with the law. This simple, short, but powerful commandment demonstrates what we as God’s elect need to take into consideration because of the difficult process that needs to be done in our daily lives, especially when it comes to God’s government and law. By loving others as ourselves we are taking part in what God wanted us to do, to be unselfish, and take others into consideration, as we take into consideration our own lives as well. The instructions are clear in Scripture, we need to put this into practice.

Let us look at the third and final aspect of the Government and

Law of God, and that is how God's law is spiritual in nature. The nature of the law of God is spiritual because it is through our own actions, behaviors, and inner most self that we can truly attest to the Government and Law of God. We are in a constant struggle between the physical and spiritual battles in our own hearts and minds every day, and God's Government and Law are an integral part of what we need to strive for. Let us read the Book of Romans 7:9-14: "For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin."

We must understand that no government or law can be perfect with sin in our lives. However, with the law of God being spiritual, it is therefore important to denote that the law of God is perfect in its own way because it comes from God unto mankind. Our human nature, with sin in mind, becomes a constant struggle between the spiritual battle with the carnal nature of our human self. However, we cannot lose sight of the most important part in the process of understanding the process of the law of God, and that is the spiritual

side needs to always have the upper hand over the physical aspect. Continuing in the Book of Romans 8:1-6: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Reading Galatians 6:2: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". When we give into the Spirit, and let out our carnal way, we can see how God's law is spiritual in nature due to the importance of having the life of peace that we just read in Scripture. Also, fulfilling the law of Christ means that we need to comprehend that we are set free by the law of the Spirit from sin that Christ exemplified for us to do. Reading the Book of 1 Timothy 1:5-8: "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully". It is incredibly difficult, especially in our time to have a government and system of law that is made pure from the heart, with the best intentions in mind, and to please every single person out there. Our system in our society, regardless of what country it is in, is not perfect, by no means. Only the Government and Law of God is perfect in its own way, and it is our own responsibility to put it into practice because we need to have the love for God's law as David alluded to, we need to practice the fulfillment of Christ with the law, and we need to understand how God's law is spiritual, and the application that needs to be implemented in our lives. Let us conclude in the Book of James 1:25: "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." 📖

Carlos Martinez



God's words first...
obey God's law first
before considering the
laws of man.

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