

July 3, 2011

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## **Monday**

1Tim. 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority.

Do you sin, becoming political rather than Christian? Our Kingdom allegiances must be, first and foremost, to the King of kings and to the Lord of lords. Part of that allegiance is to follow His instructions in our obligation to our earthly rulers and government. On this Independence Day take seriously the Lord's call to pray for your leaders and those who exercise authority over you. Pray for the President, the Governor, the Congress. Instead of praying your frustrations, pray for their wisdom, pray for God's directing of their decisions, His intervention in their plans. Paul prayed for Caesar. Politics must not determine your obedience to God's word.

## **Tuesday**

Mark 12:17 Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Sometimes the most mundane of actions can rise to the height of spiritual service and worship. Such is the paying of taxes. Transform your thoughts from dread to thanksgiving. Perhaps you are not thankful when you see the dollars missing from your paycheck, but you can be thankful that your act is one of obedience to Jesus and therefore can be an act of sincere worship. Think of your civic obligation to the earthly kingdom as a spiritual opportunity in the heavenly realm. Jesus said, "give unto Caesar what is Caesar's" and thus He elevated the simple act of paying a tax by making it an opportunity of obedient discipleship.

## **Wednesday**

Mark 12:17 Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

In a democracy, rendering unto Caesar takes on a unique application, for 'Caesar' consists of elected officials placed in office by the citizens of the state. Therefore rendering unto Caesar includes your participation in that political process. In other words, you need to vote. You should participate in the process of governance by being intelligently informed and politically engaged. Christians should not leave governance in the hands of pagans, but bring their voices to the table and inject their worldview into the arena of politics. Be careful though; don't allow false pride or self-righteousness to embitter you against others. Foremost, be Christian!

## **Thursday**

Mark 12:13 Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians in order to trap Him. Mark 12:17 Jesus said, "Render to God the things that are God's."

Living as a citizen in two Kingdoms can be inherently tricky. When you add in the truth that Satan is seeking to deceive and destroy us, the task of being a Christian citizen becomes even more daunting. Be aware that your first duty and allegiance as a Christian must be to the Kingdom of God. You must be a Christian primarily and a citizen of the United States secondarily. To view your place in any different arrangement is to elevate the earthly kingdom to a place of idolatry. If the choice must be made between obedience to one kingdom over the other, you like many before you of every nation on earth, must choose allegiance to the King of kings.

## **Friday**

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

Today is a day to spend time praying for the men and women who are willingly placing their lives in jeopardy for your freedom. Pray for the safety of our soldiers and for the families they have left behind. Pray for God's gracious work in their lives through the Chaplains who serve beside them. Give thanks to God for these men and women who serve you, their countrymen, with love.