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# THE BEREANS


ACTS 17:11

**Matthew 22:21  
Lesson #25  
Rendering to God  
11/16/2020**

1

Some Christians believe they are called to take back America in the name of Jesus.

How might a Berean respond?



2

**Why are Evangelical Christians so politically stressed when God is not?**



The Scripture has more to say about **social reform** than it does about heaven and hell together.

But what it says is hard to hear & often **ignored** or **misapplied**.

It gives a very clear model of God's form of human government - **BUT?**

Its responsibility to the church is clear enough, but also shocking and **misunderstood**.



3

**The disciples were called to spread the gospel to all humanity.**

*Matthew 28*

"19 Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

*Mark 16:15*      *Luke 24:47*

"Going into the world and preach the gospel to **all creation**."

"repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to **all the nations**,"

**What are the political ramifications of this responsibility?**

4

**Jesus speaks of two domains of responsibility**

*Matthew 22:21*

"Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to **God the things that are God's**."

**"render to God"**



It is taking our baptism seriously

**"render to Caesar"**

Next week




5

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**"render to God"**



It is taking our baptism seriously

**Submission** -  
with faith / obedience to the Word & Way of the Cross

**Expectation** -  
of serenity, security, and significance through Christ, not the world

**Power** -  
to show & tell the gospel in the midst of suffering

6

## We show God's power through our weakness.

1 Peter 2

"<sup>13</sup> **Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution**, whether to a king as the one in authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. <sup>16</sup> **Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.** <sup>17</sup> Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king."

**We are peacemakers who give up our freedom and fortune out of love for others, just as Jesus did.**



7

Philippians 2

"<sup>5</sup> **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped**, <sup>7</sup> **but emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**"



**This is the Way of the Cross marking Jesus' followers' and the Gospel's message.**

8

## We are free to yield our rights for the sake of peace because we are citizens of a higher Kingdom?

Matthew 17

When Peter was asked if Jesus paid the Temple Tax "<sup>25</sup> He said, **"Yes."** And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?" <sup>26</sup> And upon his saying, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Consequently the sons are exempt. <sup>27</sup> But, **lest we give them offense**, go to the sea, and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a stater. **Take that and give it to them for you and Me.**"

1 Peter 2:16

"Act as free men, and **do not use your freedom as a covering** for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.

9

1 Peter 4

"<sup>12</sup> Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; <sup>13</sup> but to the degree that you **share the sufferings of Christ**, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of his glory you may **rejoice with exultation.**"

**We bear a cross to a hope beyond this life.**



**We bear a cross as a visual aid to our message.**

10

2 Corinthians 6

<sup>4</sup> but **in everything** commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, <sup>5</sup> in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger,"

Romans 12:12

"rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation,"



11

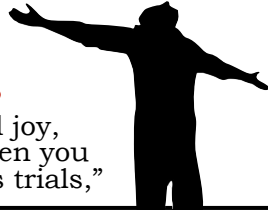
<sup>6</sup> in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, <sup>7</sup> in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness ... <sup>8</sup> by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report;



12

regarded as deceivers and yet **true**;  
 9 as unknown yet **well-known**,  
 as dying yet behold, **we live**;  
 as punished yet **not put to death**,  
 10 as sorrowful yet **always rejoicing**,  
 as poor yet **making many rich**,  
 as having nothing  
 yet **possessing**  
**all things.**"

*James 1:2*  
 "Consider it all joy,  
 my brethren, when you  
 encounter various trials,"



13

### 1 Peter 3

"15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to **give an account for the hope that is in you**, yet with **gentleness** and **reverence**; 16 and keep a **good conscience** so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your **good behavior** in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong."

**Sacrificial suffering  
 is a powerful framework  
 for sharing the Gospel's hope  
 but only when met with Jesus' attitude.**

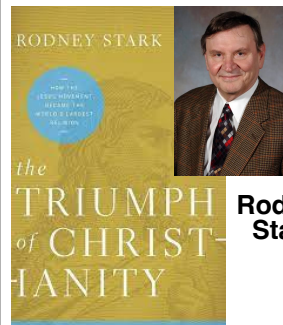
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### 1 Corinthians 1

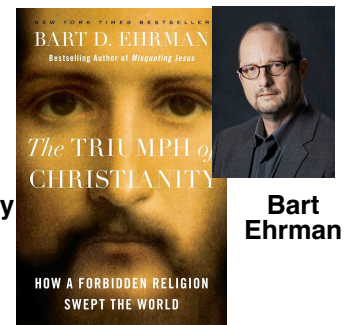
"22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach **Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness**, ... 26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but **God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise**, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,"

**God uses our weakness and our  
 difficult circumstances to trigger  
 a response that has resulted in  
 the evangelization of the world.**

15



Rodney Stark



Bart Ehrman

1. Its unique message
2. Its unexpected outreach
3. Its unnatural response to suffering

16

## This is the Point

**We render to God what is God's  
 when we take our baptism seriously,  
 resulting  
 in our response to life's trials  
 with grace and peace  
 by Christ's Spirit  
 inviting  
 the world to seek an explanation  
 of the Gospel with its hope that  
 the world can't give or take away.**

17



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