**SERMON OUTLINE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SERMON TITLE:** | What Does the Word of God Say About Government? |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Proverbs 14:34 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2444 |
|  |  |
| We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.  In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers’ messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.  Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means —electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other— without the prior permission of the publisher.  Copyright ©2020 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc. | |

1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Proverbs 14:34
      1. Sometimes people believe that the only nation God expects righteousness from is the Jewish people.
      2. But God says that any nation, if they will be righteous, will be exalted.
      3. If any nation becomes sinful, they will gain reproach.
   2. There are those who are willing and sworn in their fanaticism to bring America down and to obliterate our faith and religion.
      1. They are militant about doing this.
         1. Some are even willing to lay down their lives for this cause.
      2. They have twisted logic, and they believe a lie.
      3. We are wrestling against spiritual wickedness.
         1. Ephesians 6:12
      4. There is no bomb or bullet that will destroy an idea; the only thing that will kill an idea is a better idea.
         1. This is why we as Americans and Christians who know the truth must love the truth, tell the truth, live the truth and preach the truth.
   3. Psalm 80
      1. This is the prayer of a patriot.
   4. Only God can help us.
      1. We need to confess and turn from our wicked ways.
      2. We need to speak up and to stand up for what is right.
   5. There are those who drop out of the political scene and out of government because they see it as dirty and worldly.
      1. Some are intimidated by the great debate between church and state.
      2. But we cannot drop out.
         1. It is impossible to think that God would have ordained government and then told His people to stay out of it.
            1. Who else would that leave to run things?
   6. There are others who are misguided with zeal and have tried to bring in the kingdom of God by political machinations.
      1. But we cannot use our government to wage holy war.
   7. Where do we get the answers to our dilemma?
      1. We will not get the answers from the politician who may have his personal ax to grind.
      2. We will not get the answers from the ungodly and the humanists who do not believe the Word of God.
      3. We will not get the answers from philosophers who do not know the Word of God.
      4. The only place where we will get the answers is from the Word of God.
   8. Today’s message will show us what the Word of God has to say about government.
2. god has ordained human government (romans 13)
   1. Romans 13:1
      1. God sets up human government.
   2. God also sets up wicked governments, but that does not mean that they are God’s will.
      1. God would much rather have righteousness.
      2. People get the kind of government, by and large, that they deserve.
      3. Daniel 2:21
         1. God sets up kings, and He removes kings.
      4. Daniel 2:37-38
         1. The God of Heaven gave Nebuchadnezzar his kingdom.
      5. Romans 9:17
         1. God raised up Pharaoh to bring him down.
   3. God is behind human government, whether that government is good or bad.
      1. John 19:10-11
         1. Pilate had no power except what was given to him by God.
      2. God is in control.
   4. Human government is given to us for two basic reasons:
      1. To restrain or resist evil.
         1. Romans 13:3-4
         2. Human government is there as the instrument of God.
         3. We cannot legislate morality.
            1. There is no law that can make us moral; therefore, we have to have laws to legislate against immorality.
            2. Government cannot make us good; only God can make us good.
         4. This is why we have a police force.
         5. Sometimes in restraining evil, the government must take a life.
            1. Romans 13:4
            2. Exodus 20:13

This passage does not negate capital punishment, self-defense or war; it teaches that we do not have a right to take personal vengeance.

This verse, rightly interpreted, says, “Thou shalt not murder.”

Exodus 22:2-3

All murder is killing, but all killing is not murder.

* + - * 1. The Bible teaches capital punishment.

Romans 13:4

Genesis 9:6

Exodus 21:12

Some people think that God is too good to punish evil, but God is too good not to punish evil.

* + - * 1. There are times when we have to go to war.

We are to love our enemies.

Romans 12:14

Romans 12:18

We are not to take vengeance, but there is a difference between our personal vengeance and the government going to war or a police force protecting innocent people.

* + 1. To encourage good.
       1. The government cannot make us good, but the government can encourage good.
       2. Romans 13:3
       3. The framers of our Constitution wrote that government is to provide for the common defense.
          1. This is to resist evil and to promote the general welfare.

Not to provide the welfare, but to promote it; to give us a place where we can work, live, preach and teach.

1. the responsibilites of government and the responsibilites of the church
   1. Rightly understood, we believe in the separation of church and state.
      1. We do not want a government church.
      2. The phrase “separation of church and state” is not found in the Constitution.
      3. The First Amendment simply states that Congress will make no law respecting the establishment of religion nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof.
         1. This means that the government will not set up a state church.
      4. The founding fathers did not believe in the separation of God and government.
         1. Our entire system is based upon belief in God.
         2. The Declaration of Independence expresses that it all comes from God.
            1. “All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.”
   2. Many people do not like the idea of God in government.
      1. They like their sin and want to live in sin, and the idea of God cramps their style.
   3. What are our responsibilities as a church concerning the government?
      1. We are to pray for our government.
         1. 1 Timothy 2:1-3
         2. We need to pray for our leaders.
         3. Proverbs 21:1
            1. Sometimes God will change a ruler.
            2. Sometimes God will remove a ruler.
            3. Sometimes God will override a ruler.
         4. Wicked leaders are God’s reward for a wicked people.
            1. America gets the kind of leadership it deserves.
            2. Psalm 106:15

The people cried for one thing; God said that if that was what they wanted, then He would give it to them, but they would not have His blessing.

* + 1. We need to pay taxes.
       1. Romans 13:7
          1. The word “tribute” here is similar to our modern-day income tax.
       2. The Lord Jesus paid taxes.
    2. We need to be patriotic.
       1. As Americans, it is right and proper to put America first.
          1. Just as citizens of other nations should put their own country first.
          2. 1 Timothy 5:8
       2. We are to love America.
       3. There is nothing wrong with patriotism.
       4. 1 Peter 2:17
       5. Romans 13:7
       6. When our government does right, we are to let them know.
          1. There is nothing wrong with loving one’s land.
    3. We need to speak to the government when the government does wrong.
       1. We need to stand up and speak the Word of God.
       2. If we do not speak up, then who will?
       3. There are several examples in the Bible of God’s prophets speaking to kings and leaders:
          1. Nathan warned King David.
          2. Elijah preached to Ahab.
          3. Daniel preached to Nebuchadnezzar.
          4. Moses was God’s prophet to Pharaoh.
          5. John the Baptist preached to Herod.

As long as they are killing little babies, we should speak up.

As long as they are trying to normalize homosexuality, we should speak up.

When free-born Americans are told that they cannot pray in public, we need to speak up.

* + - 1. Matthew 22:21
         1. Our “Caesar” is a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

If we do not participate in our government, then we are disobeying the Lord.

* + - 1. Proverbs 29:2
      2. The tragedy in America is the bad citizenship of good people.
         1. We cannot be silent; we cannot sit around.
         2. One vote can make the difference.
         3. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And what I can do and ought to do, that, by the grace of God, I will do.
    1. There comes a time when we may have to disobey our government.
       1. The apostles were told not to preach in the name of Jesus, but they did anyway.
       2. The midwives in Pharaoh’s time were told to kill the boy babies, but they spared some of the little boy babies.
       3. Daniel was commanded by the government not to pray, but he prayed.
       4. There are times when we have to stand up against human authority.
       5. The only authority the government has is that which is granted ultimately by Almighty God, and we ought to obey God rather than men.
          1. Acts 5:29
       6. We do not render unto God the things that are Caesar’s, and we do not render unto Caesar the things that are God’s.
       7. Stand up against evil.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. We sometimes think that it’s just too late for our nation, and we simply hunker down.
      1. This is what the devil wants us to do.
      2. It’s always too soon to quit.
   2. In times past, God has sent revival in the darkest days.
      1. There is no Scripture that says we cannot have revival in dark days.
   3. It is not too late for America.
   4. We need to get right with God.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16