

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	What Does the Word of God Say About Government?
SERMON REFERENCE:	Proverbs 14:34
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2444

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Proverbs 14:34
 - i) Sometimes people believe that the only nation God expects righteousness from is the Jewish people.
 - ii) But God says that any nation, if they will be righteous, will be exalted.
 - iii) If any nation becomes sinful, they will gain reproach.
- b) There are those who are willing and sworn in their fanaticism to bring America down and to obliterate our faith and religion.
 - i) They are militant about doing this.
 - (1) Some are even willing to lay down their lives for this cause.
 - ii) They have twisted logic, and they believe a lie.
 - iii) We are wrestling against spiritual wickedness.
 - (1) Ephesians 6:12
 - iv) 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.
- c) Psalm 80
 - i) This is the prayer of a patriot.
- d) Only God can help us.
 - i) We need to confess and turn from our wicked ways.
 - ii) We need to speak up and to stand up for what is right.
- e) There are those who drop out of the political scene and out of government because they see it as dirty and worldly.
 - i) Some are intimidated by the great debate between church and state.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) Who else would that leave to run things?
- f) There are others who are misguided with zeal and have tried to bring in the kingdom of God by political machinations.
 - i) But we cannot use our government to wage holy war.
- g) Where do we get the answers to our dilemma?
 - i) We will not get the answers from the politician who may have his personal ax to grind.
 - ii) We will not get the answers from the ungodly and the humanists who do not believe the Word of God.
 - iii) We will not get the answers from philosophers who do not know the Word of God.
 - iv) The only place where we will get the answers is from the Word of God.
- h) Today's message will show us what the Word of God has to say about government.

2) GOD HAS ORDAINED HUMAN GOVERNMENT (ROMANS 13)

- a) Romans 13:1
 - i) God sets up human government.
- b) God also sets up wicked governments, but that does not mean that they are God's will.
 - i) God would much rather have righteousness.
 - ii) People get the kind of government, by and large, that they deserve.
 - iii) Daniel 2:21
 - (1) God sets up kings, and He removes kings.
 - iv) Daniel 2:37-38
 - (1) The God of Heaven gave Nebuchadnezzar his kingdom.
 - v) Romans 9:17
 - (1) God raised up Pharaoh to bring him down.
- c) God is behind human government, whether that government is good or bad.
 - i) John 19:10-11
 - (1) Pilate had no power except what was given to him by God.
 - ii) God is in control.
- d) Human government is given to us for two basic reasons:
 - i) 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.
 - (a) There is no law that can make us moral; therefore, we have to have laws to legislate against immorality.
 - (b) 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.
 - (a) Romans 13:4
 - (b) Exodus 20:13
 - (i) This passage does not negate capital punishment, self-defense or war; it teaches that we do not have a right to take personal vengeance.
 - (ii) This verse, rightly interpreted, says, "Thou shalt not murder."
 - (iii) Exodus 22:2-3
 - 1. All murder is killing, but all killing is not murder.
 - (c) The Bible teaches capital punishment.
 - (i) Romans 13:4
 - (ii) Genesis 9:6
 - (iii) Exodus 21:12
 - (iv) Some people think that God is too good to punish evil, but God is too good not to punish evil.
 - (d) There are times when we have to go to war.
 - (i) We are to love our enemies.
 - 1. Romans 12:14
 - 2. Romans 12:18

- (ii) 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.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) This is to resist evil and to promote the general welfare.
 - (i) Not to provide the welfare, but to promote it; to give us a place where we can work, live, preach and teach.
- 3) THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH
- a) Rightly understood, we believe in the separation of church and state.
 - i) We do not want a government church.
 - ii) The phrase “separation of church and state” is not found in the Constitution.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) 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.
 - (a) “All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.”
 - b) Many people do not like the idea of God in government.
 - i) They like their sin and want to live in sin, and the idea of God cramps their style.
 - c) What are our responsibilities as a church concerning the government?
 - i) 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
 - (a) Sometimes God will change a ruler.
 - (b) Sometimes God will remove a ruler.
 - (c) Sometimes God will override a ruler.
 - (4) Wicked leaders are God’s reward for a wicked people.
 - (a) America gets the kind of leadership it deserves.
 - (b) Psalm 106:15

- (i) 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.
- ii) We need to pay taxes.
 - (1) Romans 13:7
 - (a) The word “tribute” here is similar to our modern-day income tax.
 - (2) The Lord Jesus paid taxes.
- iii) We need to be patriotic.
 - (1) As Americans, it is right and proper to put America first.
 - (a) Just as citizens of other nations should put their own country first.
 - (b) 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.
 - (a) There is nothing wrong with loving one’s land.
- iv) 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:
 - (a) Nathan warned King David.
 - (b) Elijah preached to Ahab.
 - (c) Daniel preached to Nebuchadnezzar.
 - (d) Moses was God’s prophet to Pharaoh.
 - (e) John the Baptist preached to Herod.
 - (i) As long as they are killing little babies, we should speak up.
 - (ii) As long as they are trying to normalize homosexuality, we should speak up.
 - (iii) When free-born Americans are told that they cannot pray in public, we need to speak up.
 - (4) Matthew 22:21
 - (a) Our “Caesar” is a government of the people, by the people and for the people.
 - (i) If we do not participate in our government, then we are disobeying the Lord.
 - (5) Proverbs 29:2
 - (6) The tragedy in America is the bad citizenship of good people.
 - (a) We cannot be silent; we cannot sit around.
 - (b) One vote can make the difference.
 - (c) 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.
- v) 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.
 - (a) 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.

4) CONCLUSION

- a) We sometimes think that it's just too late for our nation, and we simply hunker down.
 - i) This is what the devil wants us to do.
 - ii) It's always too soon to quit.
- b) In times past, God has sent revival in the darkest days.
 - i) There is no Scripture that says we cannot have revival in dark days.
- c) It is not too late for America.
- d) We need to get right with God.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16