

God, Country and the Constitution

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[0 : 00] So I'm going to do a scripture. First, the announcements are usual. Wednesdays, Women's Bible Study 630. Right here, Men's Bible Study 630 as well.

! How's that? Yeah. Thank you. It's also on the board. Wednesday, 630, Women's Bible Study and Men's Bible Study.

And then, is there another slide? Is there one more? He said there was two. The other one's probably the same. We have a mission. Mission. October 9th to 12th, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. You can contact... Are you surprised? No. Okay. Let's see.

The announcements of scripture reading this morning is from Romans 13. He said, I want you to read Romans 13. Okay, what verse? Yeah, just Romans 13.

[1 : 05] The whole thing. All of it. Okay. So pray for me if it just goes well. This whole thing. Romans 13. I'm going to read from...

I used to use this version all the time when I was a teaching teacher. When you do whole chapters. Because when you're doing the whole chapter.

New and Mercer study, you know. I'm like New and Mercer standard or maybe interlinear or something. But when I read the whole chapter and did the field things. I like the New and Mercer translation.

Don't shun me for it. It just reads nicely in plain English. So Romans 13. Every person is subject to the governing authorities. Do you want to have no fear of authority?

Do what is good and you will have praise from the same. For it is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid. For it does not bear the sword for nothing.

[2 : 27] For it is a servant of God. An avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore, it is necessary to be in subjection. Not only because of wrath. But also for the sake of conscience.

For because of this, you also pay taxes. For rulers are servants of God. Devoting themselves to this very thing. Pay to all what is due to them.

Tax to whom taxes due. Custom to who custom. Respect to whom respect. Honor to whom honor. Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another.

For the one who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, you shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not covet. And if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. Do this knowing the time that is already the hour for you to awake and sleep.

[3 : 30] For now salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed. The night is almost gone and the day is near. Therefore, let's rid ourselves of the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Let's behave properly as in the day and not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and debauchery, not in strife and jealousy.

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regards to his lusts. Romans 13. And in prayer, I have heard about the fires moving down the canyon.

So I had started this morning making a list of things that I already put on here. The Purdue family and their property to be protected and the firefighters for their safety, for their skills in preventing things.

And for rain this week. The weather says we might get rain starting tomorrow, Tuesday, Wednesday. So that would be wonderful. And I also put my brother, Darryl, continues to heal.

[4 : 42] He's about two weeks post-surgery from some major testing alone. He had a mesh put in. He came over about three days ago.

I figured with this kind of message we need a little patriotic song. Madly. Thank you ladies, that sounded great.

By a show of hands, how many people hate politics? I don't know about you, but I'm sick to death of it.

I hate to turn on the TV. If I'm watching the news, I go from Fox to CNN to try and get all the different sides, but they're both awful.

[13:07] You just get tired of hearing all the negative input. It drives me crazy. But you have to be careful about using the word hate. At least I know I have.

My background is I have an MBA with a specialty in accounting and finance. But you know what? I hate accounting.

When I mention that to somebody, the first thing that happened to me is I became treasurer of this church. And I think, wow. You know, the next thing I remember when I first joined the church, I was riding down the street on my bicycle.

And Pastor Todd also had just become a member of this church. And he saw me driving by on my bicycle. And he went out in the road and he stopped me.

And he says, how would you like to teach kids scripture? And I thought to myself, boy, I don't know scripture very well. And jokingly, I told him, I hate kids.

[14:11] The next thing I knew, I was a counselor for Awana for 10 years in this church. Politics. I hate politics.

The next thing I knew, I married Gail. Gail works for the Trump administration at the White House. I mean, I'm bombarded on all sides.

But I thought about it and I thought about everything that's happening today. In the news, I think about the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

I think about the uprisings all over the place, burning buildings, wars all over the world. And I thought, you know, it really has sunk into me the whole idea that you may not like politics.

But if you don't get involved in what's going on in the world today, you can't make any changes. If you don't like the rulers or whatever, or those in charge, you need to sit down and talk with them.

[15:21] Find out really what's going on. If you disagree, maybe you should run for office. But in any case, you shouldn't move away from politics or from the government.

That's, I consider, apathy. And this is the world that we live in right now. The things that are going on, a lot of that is caused by sheer apathy. Chuck read Romans 13 to you.

And as you look at that, you see that God has actually given us government. He has put the specific individuals in places where he wants them to be.

And I thought about that. You know, why did he pick some of these people? Maybe he picked them because he wants to have some kind of revival.

Maybe it causes people to look towards the war, towards the Lord. If you happen to see the Charlie Kirk memorial service on TV, you can look at some of the things that were absolutely amazing.

[16:36] We had some of the top cabinet members of the United States making presentations there and actually delivering the gospel message.

I have never heard that before. It was amazing to me. Maybe we are going to have this revival. The authorities that are over us in the government are actually ministers of God.

If you look at it that way, you begin to think, maybe I should participate and do the right thing by helping get some of the right people in office.

Or at least influence the way that they're thinking. So, I think it's important to participate. And I know it's hard. You know, you go down and you sit in a city council meeting and you find sometimes you don't agree with anything.

That's a poor place to start. So, be aware of these things that are going on. And I think, I picked four different verses in the scripture.

[17:48] Jeremiah, Romans, Proverbs and John, just to give you an idea of where God stands. If you look at Jeremiah 32, 17. It says, Our Lord God, it is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm.

Nothing is too hard for you. You know, if you're doing the will of God, imagine the amazing things that you can do. Romans 1, 16.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

God gives us salvation. Don't you think we owe him something? Something in return to support his will? Proverbs 19, 21.

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. This is interesting. I know most men, when there's a problem or when something comes up, they just hop to it and start working on it.

[19 : 07] I can do it. Let's get her done. And then when it fails, they say, Oh Lord, I pray that you will help me get through this.

The key is to go to God first before you attempt any of these projects. His will is going to be done. Support him. If he has put these people in office in the government, there's a reason for it.

Support him in that effort. In John 3, 16. That's our great hope. For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

He is our hope. We need to include God in everything that we do in all of our lives. Now, if we go back in time and we look how our country was founded, and then you compare that to where we are today, you would be astounded.

I think that here in the United States, we've been given an extra blessing. We have so much that we have been blessed with.

[20 : 28] And typically, we don't do anything about it. We don't think about it because we have all these comforts. But if you do any kind of extensive traveling, you will see people eating out of garbage cans, people that are living on the street with absolutely nothing and no backing of their governments to support them.

So you see that we have tremendous blessings. And I have a feeling we ought to be holding up our side of the bargain here.

If you look at how our country started out, we had the pilgrims and the Puritans and all the colonists and everything.

And they're starting out and they had a very, very strong Christian background. Mainly in those days, it was the teachings of Calvin.

Now, the teaching of Calvin back during that time was Calvin believed and taught that man was created evil, or at least he was created good.

[21 : 42] But after the fall, he was evil. And so he thought that way. But then he thought, you know, through the grace of God, that you could be saved.

The only slight problem we have with Calvin today is the idea he was not too keen on free will. But he was an outstanding teacher.

And these colonists and the forefathers and everything of this country were brought up that way. As a matter of fact, if you look at the education of some of these people, they didn't have a whole lot of textbooks in their schools.

As a matter of fact, the main textbook was the Bible. And they learned to read from a very young age, and it was out of the Bible. And it was just amazing.

So they knew about God. They knew about Jesus. And that was part of their everyday life. They may have had one or two different books to read after that, but that was their main source.

[22 : 51] And so it came from their family, from their parents, to this group of people that came over to the U.S. Another group were deists.

The difference between Calvin and deists, well, deists were people that, you know, they believed in God. But they believed that God just started everything and then backed away.

It didn't have any future influence. He just kind of let us run the gamut. And I'll show you a little later when I talk about some of the individuals.

But anyway, when they came over, they formed the colonies. The colonies started out kind of on their own in the different locations on the East Coast.

And each one of them had the influence of the culture that they came from. They had the strong religious backgrounds. And they were trying to put together some kind of a government.

[23 : 56] Because at first it was just kind of chaos. Everything was going wrong. So they kind of took what they had before in Europe. They put it together.

And they tried to combine it with a church activities and everything where they were well versed.

And nothing seemed to work well. And it was still not working right.

And so they had problems with it. One of the things they looked at, I told you they were looking at some of the countries they came from.

And they were trying to piece together parts of their codes and plans and laws and everything else. It was kind of funny.

I read that they rejected the French utopian style. Because in those days the French were the far left. And they rejected that.

[24 : 58] And they rejected that. They knew that that wouldn't work with this kind of environment. But they had some things in their mind.

They were afraid of power. One of the reasons they came to America is because of the power. It was tyranny.

They were told what church they had to go to. They were told that they had to give their money to this specific church. And they had all these rules and regulations. And they were tired of it. And they felt even that the religious backgrounds and everything that they had were being abused. Particularly like from the British church. So they came.

One of the other things they did is they distrusted the majority rule. And you can see why. Now the majority rule is democracy.

[25 : 59] You hear on the TV now all these commentators saying, Well, it's destroying our democracy. You know, that's their favorite term.

We don't have a democracy. It's a republic. And the reason we have a republic is because democracy does not work well. The reason it doesn't work well is that the majority rules.

So if you have a group of people that is a small group versus the whole, they will never get anything heard. It will be for the bigger part.

The ones that hold the power. So it just didn't work. They believed real firmly in individual rights. They felt that the individual rights that they had were precious. They, you know, they used the term later on in their documents, Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

[27 : 06] Originally, it was life, liberty, and property. Because those property rights were just significant to them. They were not used to having property rights over there.

It was all taken away from them. And yet, when they're looking at this government, they need something, some overall government that is powerful enough to restrain evil.

If you have a government that's weak, and a lot of them were, there was still chaos and still problems as far as people violating the law.

But then, on the other hand, they were thinking about the idea that you can't give rulers absolute power. If you did, you're going to have tyrants.

If you gave them absolute power, then no one would have any kind of say in the matter. I don't have a teleprompter. Sorry.

[28 : 10] My wife just gives me signals. Let's take a look at the Constitution. These colonists were all coming together, and they were trying to put a government together in America that was going to satisfy at least most people in some form or the other.

And I told you the things they were concerned with, life, liberty, what not. But there's some more. There's self-interest. There's a problem with self-interest.

Everybody has self-interest. But if you're trying to put something together that's going to help the people, you have to put aside some of that self-interest and start thinking about serving the good of all or the good of most, anyway.

So that was central in their mind. They were looking at the idea of a central government versus a state government, or like a colonial-type government versus an American-type overall government. And they were very sensitive about that. They wanted to have equal voice. Well, to have equal voice is not easy. If you have a little tiny state, for example, how can you have equal voice to a state like New York, where there's a huge population and a lot larger territory as far as land is concerned?

[29 : 41] So these are the things that we're trying to work through to put a constitution together. I picked several of our founding fathers.

And I just, you know, this would be a course that would be a degree in college. And so I had a hard time trying to narrow this down because it's such a vast area.

And I picked these founding fathers not because they're the best or anything else, but I picked just a few of them. After all, there were 50-some-odd, 58, 59 that signed this thing in the end.

But I only picked a few. And I'd like to talk to you a little bit about them and tell you what their background was like so that you can see what influence putting this thing together.

First one is George Washington. Now, everybody knows George Washington. Of course, he's, you know, the first. But George, as you know, had a tremendous background.

[30 : 54] He was very courageous. He was trusted. Very wise individual. A real leader. And our men's group, you know, we're talking about spiritual leadership right now.

And you take somebody like George, who was very religious, very devout, although some commentators didn't think so.

He was. But the characteristic that most people talked about when they talked about George Washington is that he could be trusted no matter what.

No matter whether he was a general or he was a president or he was trying to help put together this constitution. And I wanted to read a little something on George Washington.

I found this in one of the favorite books I came across. Said, the U.S. Capitol has a private chapel for congressmen, one feature of which is a stained glass window called Washington's Gethsemane.

[32 : 01] The window depicts the kneeling figure of George Washington at Valley Forge praying to God for his soldiers and his country. That's the kind of man he was.

Tremendous background. He could be trusted. Next one I wanted to look at is Alexander Hamilton. He was quite a character too.

He was a pragmatist. Everything was lined up. All his ducks were in order all the time. He was a self-made man. Actually, he grew up in the Caribbean on a small island.

He was deeply invested, not from his own standpoint, but his experience was with a slave trade. That's the area where the slaves would be put together to ship to America. And so he was very heavy into seeing that as an influence.

[33 : 06] And he didn't like that idea. He was very good with finances. He later became the first treasurer of the United States. But what he saw was that this Continental Congress that they were putting together to put the Constitution together and form our government, it was weak.

It was weak. And he didn't like that. Here's a passage from Alexander Hamilton in *The Farmer Refuted*.

This was printed in 1775. He wrote, The sacred rites of mankind are not to be rummaged for among old parchments or musty records.

They are written as with a sunbeam in the whole volume of human nature by the hand of destiny, divinity, excuse me, by the hand of divinity itself.

And can never be erased or obscured by mortal power. So you see his influence on the Almighty, or the Almighty's influence on him.

[34 : 20] Next one I want to look at is Ben Franklin. Now Ben was kind of a character.

You know, you've heard all the studies that he was a womanizer and everything. But in fact, if you look deeply at it, there's really no evidence that he was a womanizer.

He just liked women. And so he was talking to them all the time, having discussions in science and everything else. But he was not really a womanizer.

He was probably the smartest and most accomplished of all of them. He was an inventor. And he had social skills that were amazing.

That's why they sent him over to France as an ambassador. And he was just quite a guy. And a scientist also. His value was that, with his social skills, he was able to bring people together.

[35 : 25] And I'll show you that in a minute. Samuel Adams. Don't get him confused with John. John came in later in the picture.

But Samuel Adams, he was the politician. None of the others were really politicians. But he certainly was.

He never overlooked an opportunity as far as to give religion a favorable place in his political activities.

So he used religion a lot of time for his politics. Pretty interesting guy. But the thing that he did as far as contributing to America the most is the fact that he made the case for independence.

That was his big thing. He said that, boy, that's the most important thing that we have. In some of his writings, and I came up with another excerpt.

[36 : 38] Samuel Adams believed all law comes from God. And human law should conform to the revealed law of God, as found in nature and in the scriptures.

He wrote under the heading, the rights of the colonists as Christians. So he believed where everything was coming from. Smart man.

Thomas Jefferson. Another key player. And like I said, I just somewhat selected these by random because there was so much everybody contributed.

Jefferson was probably the smartest and the most well read. Kind of alongside with Benjamin Franklin.

He was a genius with words. 6,500 books in his personal library. And you can imagine. You know, I may have at the most 100 books and I don't think I've read all of them.

[37 : 45] But can you imagine 6,500 books in your personal library? He did the first draft of the Declaration of Independence. And was the Secretary of State at one time.

The thing he was the most famous for, and even our government today looks upon this. He was able to negotiate this Louisiana purchase for 4 cents an acre.

Can you imagine that? I'm sure that the other side of that equation is sorry they ever did that. And you could handle them.

And you could handle them. And you could handle them. And you could handle them. And you could handle them. And you could handle them. And you could handle them. And you could handle them. And you could handle them.

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[38 : 55] he's trying to put them together and it's interesting that nobody was successful in doing that and here he is one of the older guys and he steps to the floor and Gail could you put that up please he came up with this this is fascinating to me he says he's speaking to the Continental Congress now and he's saying in this situation of this assembly hoping as it were in the dark to find political truth and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us how has it happened sir that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the father of lights to illuminate our understanding in the beginning of the contest with Britain when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayers in this room for divine protection our prayers sir were heard and they were graciously answered I have lived sir a long time and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth that God governs in the affairs of men and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid we have been assured sir in the sacred writings that except the Lord build the house they'd labor in vain that build it I firmly believe this and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel now it's interesting with with him Ben Ben Franklin he started out as a deist so at first in his career he believed that God just started everything and left went over the and left over the side and left over the side and people just filled in the gaps and God had no more influence you notice the shift in his thinking here he now believes that God is is and should be in everything and in fact he's the one that got the government more or less to learn to put prayer in the picture as a conclusion as a conclusion as a conclusion you see what situation that we're in today in this world we've got all the wars we've got people burning buildings in the cities there's like a 50-50 split between the liberals and the republicans and they won't talk to each other you can't accomplish anything unless you start talking to each other

I think part of the problem is that we've spent a long time now taking God out of everything that we do he's not in our schools anymore he's not in our government definitely he's been removed from everything they've taken the Ten Commandments out of buildings out of schools and it's not necessary that that's one big thing in itself but the big thing is if you look at it it's been kind of apathy well that's not so bad we don't have to have the Ten Commandments there we could have it down the hall but it's just chipping away of removing God from everything that we do and we need to turn that around include God in our organizations pray before we have meetings I was in positions sometimes when I would try to pray before a meeting and they'd say we can't do that here

I remember one time I was an executive for Pack Car the company that makes Peterbilt trucks and we used to send out Christmas cards from the executive offices and so we were each given a stack of cards and I remember one year and the very same thing happened when I was working for the state of Washington I remember they said well you can't do that here happy holidays And I thought to myself, you know, this has taken the whole picture of God out of what this holiday is.

And so on my cards, I wrote Merry Christmas across them and then sent them out. And they didn't like that. And then later on, when I worked for the state of Washington, it was the same kind of thing.

It was a very generic card. And I wrote Merry Christmas. And they got really upset. And I could stay to Washington after all. So the next year when they asked how many cards we needed to send out, I told them I don't want any.

[44 : 42] And so I didn't send out Christmas cards. Somewhere or the other, you have to stand up and allow God to be in the picture. I didn't religiously follow Charlie Kirk.

But I watched his podcast from time to time. And I saw his activity on the campuses. And I thought to myself, you know, he's an aggressive Republican.

And that's hard for us to do. We're not aggressive people. And we don't like to go out and share the gospel or anything else.

But I saw the reaction of the young college students and the high school students. And I saw, I don't know what the count is now, but the last I saw is like about 40,000 people or institutions like high schools and colleges that are requesting his information and starting clubs on their campuses.

So that the students will not be totally brainwashed on one side of the equation. So that they will have both sides of the picture. And I thought about that.

[46 : 06] And I thought, boy, talk about a good evangelism situation. These are the kind of things that we need. We need to be involved.

We need to put God back in everything that we do, just like the founding fathers did. They consulted God with everything.

You know, I never got to see the actual place in the congressional building with the stained glass window of George Washington on his knees.

But he, and he never wanted to push his religion or thoughts on anybody. But anytime anybody talked to him or saw him in action, he was praying and down on his knees.

And I think we need a lot of that in our lives now. That should be our direction. So with that, I think I was encouraged by Charlie Kirk.

[47 : 18] Maybe we've got a revival on our hands coming up. Wouldn't that be nice? So the ladies are going to play another nice song for you.

And then I'm going to close with a benediction. And I'm not going to have questions and answers because there's too much material to cover.