

# Freedumb in America Today, And The Christian's Duty – Part 2

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## ➤ God and Governments

Christians seem to be detached from the reality that they have a responsibility to glorify God, within the confines of the governments that they live before (that is, that they do not have a responsibility to work in an effort to shape the government in a complimentary direction to the will of God in design, morality, and freedoms).

**Romans 13:1** *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”*

**1 Peter 2:13** *“Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme,”*

I have even heard these passages used by preachers from the pulpit; who state that we do not have the God given responsibility to act within our governments to his glory, even when that was clearly His intent.

**Wow!**

Within the context of both passages, the Apostles of Jesus Christ are prioritizing that GOOD WORKS, are to be performed without fear of governments (**Romans 13:3; 1 Peter 2: 11-12; 14-15**). This was displayed within the actions of the Apostles themselves, when standing before the Sanhedrin Counsel (for Jewish Law – their version of the Supreme Court). When questioned by the court for their violation of an earlier edict (not to speak or teach the name of Jesus anymore – **Acts 4:18**), they stated the following, *“We ought to obey God rather than men.”*

This is an exact illustration of what it was to be subject to the governing bodies through good works. For this stance of good works, they were beaten and again commanded not to speak the name of Jesus. However, they rejoiced that they were instead found worthy to suffer for the cause of Christ (to perform good works in the face of the contradictive instructions of the court – **Acts 5:41-42**).

Now consider that the Apostles were set to perform good works, even though the government they lived under did not permit it. What then do the Christians of today have to say, when they live within a government predicated on the freedom to speak and teach the very things that the Apostles were forbidden to speak and teach; yet, did?

Where exactly did this detachment from our Christian duty to good works (spiritual and physical), come from? Is it that Christians believe in the providence of God (His interaction, in raising up or laying low governments), but do not

consider that their participation in good works is necessary? Virtually every Christian believes in the providence of God in the protection and rendering of His word through the centuries. Yet, where would that word be without the effort of first and second century Christians, who actively copied and protected copies with their lives?

The fact of the matter is that in every activity of God, He has the expectation that we perform His will regardless of our circumstance, government, or freedom; even more so, when our liberties are such as to have an open forum on His behalf (yet, the real outcome has been an opposite effect – God is effectively being removed from our government and this nation, and we are silently allowing it!).

This has happened because as a general rule, Christian's are **FREE-DUMB!**

Both in the freedoms they have to promote good works, and the expectations of their God, that they do so, even without these freedoms!  
So, what is God's role in governments (being ordained of God), and what has His expectations for His people always been?

***Proverbs 29:2*** “*When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;*

***But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*”**

In the inspired wisdom within the pages of Proverbs, this statement describes the simple logic that godly leadership promotes an atmosphere of freedom and opportunity. It describes for us a utopian design that is best for us and is promoted by God.

The scriptures are full of instances where this design was blest by God and that society was cared for by God. In contrast, they also reveal the opposite.

- **History.**

***Hebrews 1:1*** “*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,*”

Early in the history of revelation, God made known His involvement in the ruling affairs of men. This involvement shaped not only the direct result of the principalities of nations, but encompassed the entire population as well.

***Genesis 15:12-16*** “*Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup>Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. <sup>14</sup>And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup>Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup>But in the*

***fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."***

God, speaking directly to Abraham, reveals His influence effecting three different nations. Earlier, God promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation (**Genesis 12:2**). However, Abraham could not take possession of the land that God has promised Him and his descendants because the sins of the Amorites was not yet complete.

The people of Canaan would be judged and punished because of their own transgressions and iniquity. God would not cast them out of the land; until they were given time to become too detestable to live in it. This would be the basis or standard by which he would judge every nation in history, where His influence is recorded (which would include Egypt and even the people of Israel, additionally mentioned here).

God's righteous judgment on nations was never swift by the standards of men; however, His long suffering towards nations was indeed patient and often included warning (then being without excuse, and by their own choice of evil, would be judged righteously).

One of the best examples of this is recorded by the prophet Jonah. As the story goes; God wanted him to go and preach repentance to Nineveh (the capital city of Assyria). Jonah thought this to be a sure death sentence and sought to try and escape from God. God chastised him and he finally fulfilled the task. He entered the city and cried out, ***"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"*** ***Jonah 3:4.***

Note the people's response and the result:

***Jonah 3:5-10*** ***"So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. <sup>6</sup>Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. <sup>8</sup>But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. <sup>9</sup>Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? <sup>10</sup>Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it."***

Their recognition of their evil practices and repentance stayed the wrath of God (this also teaches us that these Gentiles, apart from the Law of Moses, knew the expectations of God as they could not repent to something they did not know!). However, Biblical history would bear out that this stay was only for a time,

eventually they would return to their evil practices and God would allow them to be overcome by another nation.

**Jeremiah 18:7-10** *“The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, <sup>8</sup>if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. <sup>9</sup>And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, <sup>10</sup>if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.”*

God’s longsuffering towards the evil practices of nations is best recorded here by Jeremiah (the weeping prophet). Yet, even with this explanation of God’s righteousness in judgment, based on the choices of nations, the books of the prophets are overflowing with proclamations of judgments on nations that by choice ignored the warnings of God.

To the Christians reading this, here is a special note of interest:

**Ezekiel 14:20** *“even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live,” says the Lord GOD, “they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.”*

The prophet Ezekiel found himself in Babylonian captivity, right along side all the disobedient house of Israel and Judah. Here in the fourteenth chapter of this book, he proclaims God’s unrelenting judgment on all unfaithfulness. Yet as a secondary lesson, he describes that the righteous suffer right alongside the evil in the judgments of God. Their deliverance was not that they avoided captivity, plague, or destruction but that their faith in God delivered them to him in the end.

The peace we enjoy in this nation is not a guarantee, based on the unrighteousness of this nation and the direct affect of this nations choices; we have already learned that God’s judgments are sure!

How will we answer for our lack of influence on the direction this nation has chosen?

The results of His righteous judgment should be meditated on day and night by those who call on His name!

**Ezekiel 13:8-10** *“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Because you have spoken nonsense and envisioned lies, therefore I am indeed against you,” says the Lord GOD. <sup>9</sup>My hand will be against the prophets who envision futility and who divine lies; they shall not be in the assembly of My people, nor be written in the record of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord GOD. <sup>10</sup>Because, indeed, because they have seduced My people, saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace-- and one builds a wall, and they plaster it with untempered mortar”*

**Just a thought, as we are learning about God's dealings with nations, and the expectations of those who know His righteousness!**

▪ **Moving Forward.**

**Hebrews 1:2** *"has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;"*

Just as the Old Testament was a school master to bring us to Christ (**Galatians 3:24**), God has revealed His will and the revelation of His involvement in the affairs of man, through His Son.

**Matthew 28:18-20** *"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, **"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

In the last words of the risen Savior to His chosen, He declares that all authority had been given Him by God, in heaven and earth. The standards of judgments on nations that existed prior to the Christ of God, have now been unified in standard, by the righteousness revealed through Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the great sermon by the Apostle Paul at the Areopagus of Athens; he would declare to these philosophers the Unknown God! In this great sermon, Paul would declare that all men should recognize Him within ourselves. The conclusion was simple:

**Acts 17:30-31** *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."*

All men have a common obligation unto Him and all have a common responsibility for their conduct. More importantly, all men will meet a common judgment under the unified standard of Christ!

**Acts 2:36** *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

**Acts 4:12** *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

In addition to fulfilling God's great plan for the salvation of men from their iniquities, God would continue His providential assessment and judgment of nations through His Christ.

***Ephesians 1:20-21*** "which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."

***1 Peter 3:22*** "who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."

The conclusion in this historic chain of events is that God has always judged nations based on their choice of righteousness or indignation. Before, in a more direct approach speaking directly to men by the prophets. Now continuing this same practice through Christ Jesus, having unified the standard for His righteous judgment.

***Romans 1:1-5*** "Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God <sup>2</sup>which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup>and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. <sup>5</sup>Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,"

***Romans 1:16-17*** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

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Behind the sins of pride and idolatry (ancient or modern versions); are the rejections of God from the heart and culture of a people. The Old Testament history of nations bears testimony to the fact that God never destroyed a nation so long as there was enough spiritual essence to justify its continued existence. But when that essence of righteousness is extinguished and a nation is no longer fit to live in the land; God brings it to an end!

This nation is completing the twenty first century since the establishment of the righteousness of Christ, with unrequited sins! Homosexuality, abortion, pornography, divorce, and the systematic removal of God and His Son from all aspects of life in this nation are just some to be named. As we have learned, moral decay brings inevitable judgment.

Unless there is repentance on a massive scale within our nation for the follies practiced, citizens of this nation will experience consequential judgments. How is this repentance found within the world of sinful man?

**1 Corinthians 1:21** “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

**Titus 2:7-8** “in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, <sup>8</sup>sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”

**1 Peter 2:11-12** “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, <sup>12</sup>having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

**1 Peter 2:15** “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men”

Then the question remains:

How strict will be the wrath of God on those who knew this and remained silent?  
How will we justify the inactive, passive, and unproductive nature of our faith in the face of freedom of religion; when first century Christians died for their faith without freedom of religion?

**Galatians 6:7** “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

On a larger scale, nations as well!