

Strangers On This Earth: True Christians

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Acts 17:6-8 “But when [the Law Enforcers] did not find the Apostles, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out: ‘These [Christians] who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Jason has harbored them, and **these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar**, saying there is another king--Jesus.’ And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things.”

16:20-23 “And [the Law Enforcers] brought the Apostles to the magistrates, and said, ‘These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city, and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe. ... And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw the Apostles into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.” 28:22 “But we desire to hear what you think, because concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere.” **True Christians were spoken against everywhere. Their ways were opposed to mainstream culture.**

Revelation 13:10, referring to God’s retribution against the Law Enforcers and followers of the World Government (**yet to come**), it says: “Whoever leads into captivity shall go into captivity, whoever kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and faith of the saints.”

November 2008: **I say it again: I don’t vote because i don’t trust any of them. All political parties are evil.**

I cannot argue against making the world a better place. There’s nothing wrong with doing good but those who claim to be Christian should make sure that in their endeavor to make the world a better place, they don’t compromise the truths of the Jewish Scripture (Old and New Testament). **On many occasions, Jesus sharply rebuked the Authorities, not because he was trying to make the world a better place but because of RIGHTEOUSNESS. God is King, not the perverted laws of men. In God’s time, He will come in great power and glory, destroy human government and manifest His Rule on this earth.** Those who think that **the most important thing** is to make the world a better place, need to seriously consider the following Scriptures:

John 18:36-37 “Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews leadership [to crucifixion], but now My kingdom is not from here. Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” 6:26 “Jesus

answered them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. **Do not labor for food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life**, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.’ Matthew 4:4 “... It is written, **man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from God.**”

Luke 12:13-15 “Then one from the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me. But Jesus said to him, ‘who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you [on such matters]? Then Jesus said to them, ‘**Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.**” Watch out for counterfeit-gospels: the Social Gospel, Health and Wealth Gospel, Rule the World for Christ, etc., which attract the human spirit and the crowd with earth-bound promises (earth-bound hopes). 12:51-52, Jesus said “Do you think I came to give peace on earth? Not at all, but rather division. Because from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three.”

Habakkuk 2:13-14 “Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the peoples labor to feed the fire, and nations weary themselves in vain? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” 2Peter 3:10-15 “... the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens [sky and space] will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; **the earth and the works in it will be burned up.** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens [sky and space] will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless, and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation ...”

In the Messiah’s first coming, if His main goal was to make the world a better place, why did He tell the oppressed people (the Jews) to continue paying taxes to the oppressive system (the Caesars)? The Roman Empire took the Mediterranean world by force and ruled with an iron fist. In Israel, every Jew hated paying taxes to that bloody system. That was the socio-economic context of the times of Yah’Shua (Jesus).

The Local Authorities and Religious Authorities were jealous of Jesus. They wanted to trap Him in His speech and deliver Him to the Roman authorities, to crucifixion. They devised a tough question: Should we pay taxes to Rome or not? If Jesus said “don’t pay taxes”, then, they would report Him to the Roman authorities (to crucifixion). Some of the rulers may have thought: If Jesus says “pay taxes to Rome”, all His followers will stop following Him because everyone hated that oppressive system and wanted to make the world a better place.

Matthew 22:15-22 “Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth, nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?’ But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, ‘Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money.’ So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, ‘Whose image and inscription is this?’ They said to Him, ‘Caesar’s.’ And He said to them, ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, **and to God the things that are God’s.**’ When they heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.”

Give the money to the evil rulers, it bears their image but don’t allow them or the world (education, media, etc.) to invade your soul, that belongs to God who made you in his own image from which you fell away. **Genesis 1:26-27 “... God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness ...’ So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.”**

To those who think that the number one thing God has called Christians to, is: “make the world a better place”, listen: The Jewish Scripture (Old and New Testament) shows that when Messiah returns, He will certainly bring Justice, and turn the world into Paradise (Isaiah 11:1-9), but please allow me to show you **His present concern**: John 2:14-17 “And Jesus found in **the temple** those who sold ... and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of **the temple** ... and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold ... ‘Take these things away! Do not make **My Father’s house** a house of merchandise!’ Then His disciples remembered that it was written: **Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.**” That took place at the beginning of His ministry. The following took place at the end of His ministry. Mark 11:15-18 “Then Jesus went into **the temple** and began to drive out those who bought and sold in **the temple**, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold ... And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through **the temple**. Then He taught, saying to them, ‘Is it not written, **My house** shall be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of thieves.’ And the leaders heard it and sought how they might destroy Him, for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.”

Oh! How the Churches need those who will give themselves to the Lord, allow Him to fill them and bring serious correction to **the wrongs among Church leadership** today. I’m not saying that anyone should physically do what Jesus did in the above quote, but those who belong to God should **speak out against things that do not align with the truths of the New Testament in the church.** See 1Corinthians 5:12-13

In November 2008, because i said i don’t vote, one of the responses i received was the following: “When you don’t vote and a bad government comes to power as a result, then you will suffer because of its bad policies.”

My response: In any society, deceitful people are always more in number (majority) than good people. Those who hold false knowledge are always more in number (majority) than those who possess true knowledge. Therefore **deceit and sin reigns in the political parties**, and deceit and sin will always take the throne, until the Messiah returns to destroy human kingdom. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said “Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are **many** who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are **few** who find it [because only few really want the difficulties of the Life].” Jesus said “... **what is highly esteemed among people is an abomination in the sight of God**” (Luke 16:15).

The true God came to this earth and after all His teaching and miracles, the majority voted for sin and deceit (**Barabbas**) rather than the true Life (Matthew 27:20-26, Luke 23:13-25). In the near future, the global majority will adore the fake-Christ whom they will call the Saviour of the world. Revelation 13:8-18 “All who dwell on the earth (whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world) will worship the fake-Christ ... his prophet performs **great signs**, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth **by those signs** which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast [the fake-Christ] who was wounded by the sword and lived. Fake-Christ’s assistant was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the fake-Christ to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”

Someone e.mailed me the following:

“There is no perfect system anywhere on the surface of the earth, Jesus knew this yet He prayed to the Father that we should not be taken away from the earth yet but be protected. While we are on earth, are we not to make a difference? Shall we not participate in shaping the world to be a better place for us to live in? **Did the Lord say we should not participate in politics or any other activity of earth?**”

I had to answer his last question first: “Did the Lord say we should not participate in politics or any other activity of earth?” The following was my response: I am not trying to be rude, but the question you just asked, reminds me of a similar question. Genesis 3:1 “... the serpent said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, you shall **not** eat of every tree of the garden?’” 3:4 “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’ ...

“... Did the Lord say we should not participate in politics or any other activity of earth?”

I cannot argue against making the world a better place. There's nothing wrong with doing good but those who claim to be Christian should make sure that in their endeavor to make the world a better place, they don't compromise the truths of the Jewish Scripture (Old and New Testament). **On many occasions, Jesus sharply rebuked the Authorities, not because he was trying to make the world a better place but because of RIGHTEOUSNESS. God is King, not the perverted laws of men. In God's time, He will come in great power and glory, destroy human government and manifest His Rule on this earth.**

In John 15:19, Jesus said to those who are His: “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” Hebrews 13:12-14 “So that Jesus might sanctify the people with His own blood He suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. **For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.**” James (Yakob) 4:4 “... Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

In John 17:14-18, as Jesus communed with His Father, He said of His followers: “I have given them Your Word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world ... Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world **[not to make the world a better place, but to rescue people from the world and bring them into God's Kingdom].**” Hebrews 11:13-16 “[Old Testament believers] all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were **strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a Heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

2Corinthians 4:16-18 “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward person is perishing, yet the inward person is being renewed day by day ... while we do not look at the things which are visible but at the things which are invisible. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are unseen are eternal.” Philippians 3:17-19 “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. Because **many**, of whom i have told you often, and now tell you even weeping ... whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly ... **who set their mind on earthly things.**” But for those who belong to Christ: 3:20-21 “**our citizenship is in Heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body ...”

Another person who disagreed with me started his e.mail with this: **“If the Bible said that you should obey God rather than man, why did the same scripture tell you to obey a constituted authority.”**

My Response: In some cases, some societal law blatantly goes against Scripture. In such cases, those who belong to God must obey His Word, not human authorities. Acts 5:28-33 “The authorities said: ‘Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!’ But Peter and the other apostles answered: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men ...’ When the authorities heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.”

His e.mail also contained the following:

“If government say you should vote, though not compulsory, you have to obey and vote. Even though we as christians are in this world but not of the world, yet it is through this constituted authorities we have peace to be able to do the things of God.”

Not true. Those who belong to God have peace and power to do the will of God because God is their strength and peace, not government. The Roman Empire was hostile against true Christians because they refused to bow to Caesar and various Roman customs. The Roman Empire tortured and killed true Christians but that didn’t stop true Christians from obeying Yah’Shua their Master. In the near future: Revelation 14:4-5 “... These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. **And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.**”

The following was also part of his e.mail:

“When you don’t vote and a bad government comes to power as a result, you will suffer the same fate with unbelievers. The Bible says if you cannot obey man you can see, how can you obey God whom you cannot see. ...”

Show me where the Scripture says “if you cannot obey man, how can you obey God.”

His e.mail also contained the following: “While Jesus Christ the son of God lived on this earth, he never disobeyed the ruling government of His time.”

But John 5:18 says, “... the Jewish authorities sought all the more to kill Jesus, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.” 4:9 “The woman of Samaria said to Jesus, ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?’ For [by custom] Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.” **Evidently Jesus didn’t observe some of their laws.**

The following was also part of his e.mail: “If government institutes a penalty on people who did not vote, you will not escape it. You will be counted as one who disobeys a constituted authority. Watch out!!”

Jesus and His disciples suffered from the hands of the Authorities because they dared to do things God’s way, and they dared to bring a message of reproof and condemnation on the Rulers (especially the Religious Authorities) rather than compromising God’s Word (end of Q. and A).

The way to reconcile Romans 13:1-3 with Acts 16:20-23, 17:6-8, 5:27-29 is by understanding that: for true Christians, the Scriptures especially the New Testament, is the guide **concerning what human laws we ignore/reject, or submit to**. Clearly on taxes and material possessions, we must surrender those to Caesar/human law; Jesus already made that clear.

Eventually, God will bring His Wrath against every injustice: 1Peter 2:23 “... when Jesus suffered, He did not threaten, **but committed Himself to God who judges righteously**”.

In Jeremiah 29:7-10, God was instructing His people (the Jews) not to believe the preachers who were telling them to partake in physical violence against the dictatorship/tyrannical government that conquered their land, slaughtered them, and took them away to become slaves in Chaldea (Babylon). Before this, God repeatedly warned His people to submit to His own rule, or else He would send the Babylonians to come and destroy and take them captive. They didn’t repent, therefore, God brought His sword (Babylon), and He told His people (e.g., in Jeremiah 29), **not to believe the popular preachers’ positive messages** but to submit to Babylon because He is the One using Babylon to punish them. He also said that after seventy years He will destroy the enemies of the Jews and return the Jews to their land (Israel). Please see Leviticus 26:40-44 (i.e., if Israel acknowledges his guilt, submit to God’s Judgment which we all deserve, then God will give peace to Israel).

Many spiritual leaders and church-goers misunderstand 1Timothy 2:1-8. They think God wants Christians to change the politics of the society by prayer and political activism, but the purpose of prayer isn’t political change. 1Timothy 2:1-8 encourages Christians unto humility and away from violence. For a true-Christian, hope in God is what replaces anger against government or anger against people. True prayer (communion with God), changes the Christian’s heart and attitude, but the world and false-Christians will continue to hate and oppress true-Christians. Scripture doesn’t teach that prayer will turn the earth into paradise. In Luke 12:51-52, Jesus said: “Do you think I came to give peace on earth? Not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three.” In Acts 4:19-31, we see one of the many persecutions the early Christians faced and how they prayed about it. They didn’t pray that God should remove those evil Rulers who

were persecuting them. They prayed that God would empower them (the saints) to continue preaching, in spite of the evil edict of the rulers.

In 1Timothy 2:1-8, God is instructing His people (followers of the Messiah, Jews and Gentiles) to have a gentle and quiet spirit, this is very precious in the sight of God. Similar to Matthew 5:38-48 where Jesus said: "... You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy'. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in Heaven, for He is kind to the unthankful and evil and He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ... Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect."

In those days, there was no democracy or public voting. Governments were dictatorships (tyranny), that was the context in which God instructs His people to not engage in violence to make the world a better place. Jeremiah 29:7-10 and 1Timothy 2:1-8 are not instructing God's people to mix with public **thinking or lifestyle**. Those Scriptures are not instructing God's people to vote or participate in politics or any **earthly** peace program.

Isaiah 11:1-9 will not be accomplished by any peace program or politics. It shall be fulfilled only by the Jewish Messiah who died for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended to Heaven from Mount Olives, and will return (according to His Father's time) to reign over all the earth from Jerusalem. Isaiah 11:1-9 says "A Rod shall come from the stem of Jesse ... He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears, but with righteousness He shall judge ... and decide with equity [fairness] for the meek of the earth. He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins and faithfulness the belt of His waist. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young ones shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."

That earthly reign (Isaiah 11:1-9) will end. Messiah will transfer that earthly reign and His people into the Eternal Jerusalem.

The majority will not allow Truth to change them. **The majority don't want Truth.** Therefore, at the end, the true God will have to separate and consign people to the spiritual kingdom they served while here on earth. Some will be taken to God's Eternal Kingdom while many will be consigned to darkness and sorrow forever.

When those two sorts of people are finally separated by God, then and only then will there be absolute good and peace, only in God's Eternal Kingdom. **GraceTruth7.org**
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