

An Encouraging Word

By Tom Cox



God and Government

As I write this, we are right in the middle of a hotly contested presidential election. This election season also features other races that vie for our attention in this deeply divided nation. The rhetoric is heated and emotional, and some may wonder if we should even use those two words together—"God" and "government". However, the Bible speaks of government in relation to God, so we must address the issue.

Romans 13:1-7 is one of several New Testament passages that deal with this important subject. It says that we must be subject to the authorities because they have been established by God. Simply put, the government's job is to protect its citizens; the citizens' duty is to submit to the authorities.

Now we must note that the government does not always protect its citizens well. When the apostle Paul wrote this Scripture, Rome was the governing authority. It was this government that crucified Jesus and persecuted Christians. Yet Paul says that we must subject ourselves to a government that is far from perfect. In the U.S. today, we have a government that allows for babies to be murdered in the womb, ignores God's defi-

inition of marriage, permits some of the worst criminals in the world to cross our border unchecked and attempts to spread the wealth around by robbing from the workers and giving to those who refuse to work. Yet we are supposed to submit to such a government.

Now, there are some notable exceptions. When the government told Daniel he was forbidden to pray to the one true God, he disobeyed the authorities and prayed as usual (Daniel 6:10). When the religious authorities commanded the apostles not to speak about Jesus anymore, they refused. "But Peter and John replied, 'Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.'" (Acts 4:19-20). We are not to blindly follow every edict that is issued by the authorities, but our duty is to submit to them unless it calls for us to disobey God.

Living in a democracy is an interesting situation because we can choose our elected officials. This is a scenario that the early Christians could not have imagined! What a blessing it is to be able to select godly men and women to make important decisions! Sadly, millions of Christians do not

exercise their right to vote. What greater opportunity do we have to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world that Jesus calls us to be!

Many Christians are thinking about sitting out this year's presidential election because of the obvious character flaws of both candidates. They can't imagine throwing their support behind either of these deeply flawed individuals. However, choosing a candidate is not necessarily endorsing their character. Making a decision in this political race is choosing what kind of nation you want to live in. If you can't vote based on the candidate's character, make your decision based on the policies that the candidates propose. From this perspective, the Christian voter has an option, and perhaps a duty, to participate in this year's election. Someone will make the decisions for the nation. If Christians opt out of the process, those decisions will be made by people whose worldview is vastly different from ours. So, let's do our duty, not only as citizens of the U.S., but citizens of the kingdom of God. Let's vote for godly principles!

For more inspirational writings by Tom Cox, go to www.jesustrek.wordpress.com.

Ruminations

By Al Owens

Power and Limits

The Bible has many mysteries within its sacred pages. One of them has to do with the power and limits of Satan, and that's important for every person, for it affects our wellbeing. The first two chapters of the Book of Job, the oldest book in the Scriptures, give us some clues regarding this issue, because the Lord certainly interacted with the devil concerning His servant, Job.

God instigated the conversation with Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job...?" (Job 1:8) And our great adversary replied, "Hast thou not made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?" (Job 1:10) That was true and thank the Lord He builds such hedges around His people.

Old slew foot said that if God would take away Job's possessions that the man would curse Him to His face. Therefore, the Lord declared, "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand." (Job 1:12)

First, Satan had the power to send the Sabaeans to steal Job's oxen and asses and to slay all his servants. Second, fire fell from heaven and burned up all the sheep and the servants that cared for them. Third, the Chaldeans carried away all the camels and slew those servants. And last, a great wind was used to take the lives of Job's ten children.

All this was orchestrated by Satan, so he controlled people, fire from heaven that the servant attributed to God, and the great wind, so to some degree the devil can control nature.

Then last of all he was permitted to touch Job's body but not to take his life. That implies that Satan can afflict our bodies with bad health or sickness and physical affliction, but again he was limited and could not go beyond the boundaries God set. That tells us that the tempter was still under Divine control and was subservient to the Lord, and he still is.

Note that all the wickedness Job suffered came at the hands of Satan. The Lord did not tell him specifically what to do to Job. He just said that all Job had was under his power. Hence, much of the suffering and bad things that happen to us are caused by the devil in his efforts to hurt God's people and to hinder the cause of Christ, but we

need not fear. God knows all about what Satan does, and He is with us no matter what. Yes, Job suffered, but God knew what he was going through. Job passed that test and survived that trial and was greatly blessed later because of it.

And look at all the other people that suffered because of Satan's cruelty. All those servants were slain, and how their families must have grieved.

True, all this is mysterious, but it's encouraging to know that although the accuser of the brethren is powerful, he is not all powerful. Only our Heavenly Father can claim that attribute.

Therefore, when negative circumstances enter our lives, we may take comfort in the fact that our Lord is up to something, and that in the end we will benefit from them and be blessed by them. Praise God for His providential care and the limits He places on the devil.



No Middle Ground will be in concert at Sand Hill Christian Church, Sunday, November 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by the concert.

Everyone is invited. Located at 3760 Trinity Station Rd., Vanceburg, KY. 47c

Treasures by Wilma Erwin

Have you ever received a blessing from The Lord?

I'm sure you have whether you are mindful and/or thankful or not. Have you ever received a burden to suffer, a wound to mourn, a care of others to pray through the night? Sometimes The Lord gives us blessings and sometimes He, ourselves or others give us burdens. We like blessings. We do not ever welcome burdens.

In Exodus we have a family of the house of Levi, the priesthood generation, having a son. He is a goodly child The Word says. He is born in a burdensome time. The current Pharaoh is NOT friendly to the slave Israelites. He is rather ordering their babies destroyed to prevent their population growing. This boy, Moses, at three months was becoming difficult to hide. The Mother took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.

4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. 5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. 6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. 7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy

wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water. 11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. 13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? 14 And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known. 15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well. Imagine being Moses and reared in two worlds: Hebrew slaves and Egyptian rulers. He was taught by his Mother and yet lived his growing years in Pharaoh's palace as his grandson. Wow! Talk about a burden!

Moses lived in this burden of having two worlds. I believe his Mother taught him who he was yet he lived an Egyptian prince. In time this burden was like Humpty Dumpty's Egg. It would break! It did! One day Moses killed and buried an Egyptian who was mistreating a Hebrew. He must have had an awful night!

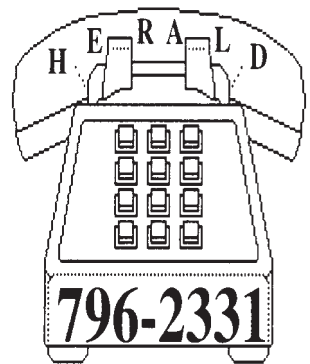
Then he goes out the next day to find two Hebrews

fighting. When he tried to correct the situation one accused him of the killing and burial of the Egyptian. He wasn't seen as a hero defending God's people but as a murderer. Further, the men made it plain they were not seeing him as any leader over them. Really! The thing was known and not seen as Moses did. The Pharaoh soon was informed and he sought to find and kill Moses. Wow! This thing didn't go as Moses saw it, huh? Now he was a wanted murderer. He left.

Imagine the burden of those next years!

Has The Lord allowed a burden to fall on you? Do you need to carry it as His servant? Will you win others with the way you travel on under the burden?

Blessings on carrying burdens like Jesus carried all our sin.



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Hospice of Hope, founded in 1988, is the nonprofit organization committed to advancing quality end-of-life care and serving as a voice, advocate and resource for its members and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, hospice care provides patients and families the highest quality care during life-limiting illness and at the end of life, through pain management and symptom control, caregiver training and assistance, and emotional and spiritual support, allowing patients to live fully until the final moments, surrounded and supported by the faces of loved ones, friends, and committed caregivers; and

WHEREAS, since 1988 thousands of citizens living with advanced or life-limiting illness, and their families, received care throughout the Hospice of Hope region of care; and

WHEREAS, professional and compassionate hospice staff — including physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, counselors, health aides, volunteers and clergy — provide comprehensive care focused on the wishes of each individual patient; and

WHEREAS, providing high-quality hospice care reaffirms our belief in the essential dignity of every person, regardless of age, health, or social status, and that every stage of human life deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and care; and

WHEREAS, hospice care providers encourage all people to learn more about options of care and to share their wishes with family, loved ones, and their health-care professionals;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, George Sparks, Judge Executive of Lewis County, do hereby proclaim November as Hospice Care Month and encourage citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of care at the end of life and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

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Notice
The City of Vanceburg will be posting in next week's edition of the LEWIS COUNTY HERALD any property taxes that are delinquent. The name, property location, and amount due will be posted. This will be for 2013 through 2023. If you think you may owe any of the past year's property taxes, please call the City Clerk at 796-3044 between the hours of Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wed. 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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*upon verification of income/asset

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Water, Sewer, Trash included in Rent | Deposit can be made in 3 payments | Central Air/Heat On Site Laundry

Office Hours Mon&Thurs 12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Tues&Fri 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 606.796.6168 vanceburg@werentky.com

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