

Grab the Tiller and Turn the Rudder!

Sunday Morning, September 11, 2016

The United States and its government are a lot like a big ship. We might want to say that our President is a lot like the ship's Captain. The Captain or someone who is assigned to navigating the ship through the oceans will occasionally have to grab the tiller and turn the rudder to keep the ship on course. The Captain is vitally important to the Ship and Crew's successful journey.

As we come into the final weeks of the Presidential Race here in the United States, many of us are already experiencing the political campaigning blues. Many of us may feel the ship of the United States is off course or will be soon. We may feel our current Captain or the upcoming choices we have for a new Captain of our Ship is not who we would ideally pick to sail our Ship. We need to remember that no President of the United States is perfect in character or policy.

My objective this morning is not to share personal or political stands. One of my main objectives this morning is to examine what the Bible teaches about how we are to support our next President of the United States of America. The consideration to support the next President of our Nation, even if we don't vote for that candidate can bring distain to the hearts of many Americans!

God directs us in His Word on how we are to support the authority of our President and other governing authorities in a godly manner.

So there are three questions I'd like us to answer this morning. Question number 1 is: "How should we relate to government authority?"

(Romans 13: 1 – 2)

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.
2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

(Titus 3:1)

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

Caution: This does not mean that we should submit to those laws that oppose God's Word!

(Acts 4: 18 - 19)

18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

(Acts 5:29)

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

We can also look at Old Testament stories like Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego and the Fiery Furnace and Daniel and the Lions Den as cases when disobeying the law and obeying God was supreme.

However, Christians should be peaceable in general and not participate in civil rebellion that leads to rioting.

(Romans 12:18)

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

So the answer to question number 1 is that:
We need to relate to our governing authority by being submissive and respectful.

Question number 2 is:
“Can the direction of government authority be changed?

(Proverbs 21:1)

The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

(Revelation 17:17)

For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

The answer is:
Yes! By God’s hand, by His power, and His Will, the direction of our government authority can change.

Question number 3 is:
“What can Christians do to turn government authority in America back to being one nation under God? Is that even possible? God says it is!

(I Peter 4:17)

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

(II Chronicles 7:14)

if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

The answer to question number 3 is:
Christians can turn government authority in America back to one Nation under God, by their obedience to God. God promises that if we obey and call out to Him that He will heal our nation.

It is never too late. We can always put our hand on the tiller through prayer and obedience and help the Captain turn the ship and put it on course.

We need to do our best to honor our new President and governing authorities in a way that is pleasing to God. As Christians yield themselves in obedience and devote themselves to prayer, God will bring change and heal America!

So go ahead, Grab the Tiller and Turn the Rudder!