Message# 247 7-09-2023 - Having Done All, Stand

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

I want to remind you that Teresa and I have reserved the campgrounds for when the world calls Aug., 20 through the 23rd. The 20th is a Sonday. We will plan on doing this the way we have in the past, where we open up sign in for 1:00pm that afternoon. Then, we'll begin the Conference with a dinner, followed by our opening Assembly that evening.

I need to report to you that our Christian brother, Jeff, was kidnapped off the streets of Jefferson City, Missouri on the 4th of this month - just a few days ago. He was committing the violent act of going to the grocery store - when - on the day united states citizens celebrate their freedom - feel free to hilariously laugh your heads off right now - a cop was driving through the parking lot with his license plate reader and came upon Jeff's lawfully purchased truck - which - did not have the approved letters and numbers on a piece of tin plate that allows men to exercise their bogus freedom.

So, as Jeff was exiting the grocery store, this cop, who was working feverishly to make sure everyone was safe from crime - pulled Jeff over and upon further examination - kidnapped Jeff off the street.

Friends, I don't know when, how, etc., but there is a court in Heaven that is keeping track of violent crimes - like kidnapping. And again, I don't know when, how, etc., but God is not going to be mocked and men and women are going to pay dearly for capital offenses against the Laws of God. They can set up their phony politicians, left, right, whatever stupid thing they identify with - and they can laugh and mock and ridicule the "Old Covenant Laws of God" all they want to - but there is a God in Heaven who doesn't think it's very funny to laugh and mock and ridicule His Laws and there is going to be a day of reckoning. Whether it happens when a man closes his eyes for the final time in this fleshly body - or God delivers a Sodom and Gomorrah type judgment - I don't know - but just because someone is wearing a special suit with a badge and a gun - that does not give that man authority to break the Laws of God.

And when you handcuff someone, take them off the street or out of their homes, and that individual has not violated a punishable Law of God - **that is kidnapping**. And God

is recording the charges. Don't think for a minute that He is not. A man can say a thousand times - the Laws of God are done away with - the Laws of God have been replaced with man's laws - a man can even convince himself of such an insane, stupid, ridiculous concept - but that does not make it so.

God gives men Authority to deprive another man of his freedom in only one condition. And that is that the man is accused - by two or more witnesses - of murder, theft, rape, kidnapping (murder and rape are actually kidnapping) or any other capital offense defined ONLY in the Word of God - ONLY in the Laws of God contained in His preserved Word. That's it. You cannot handcuff someone and put them in a cage when the only thing they are accused of is violating some manmade statement that men call a "law."

Friends, Jeff is standing for what it means to stand for Christ. This is what it means to stand for the Government of God. This is what it means to be a witness for Jesus Christ the King. Man is not allowed to make their own "laws." Man is not allowed to create their own definitions of good and evil. Man is not allowed to create from his own imagination what is right and what is wrong - then put other men out in the society with guns to enforce the imaginations of their own hearts.

This should not be a difficult thing to understand. The Law of God says nothing about demanding another man - one man demands another man - to get a piece a paper from him in order to live his life. One man cannot demand from another that he carry around a piece of plastic in his billfold that contains certain letters and words - in order to go to the grocery store without being harassed and thrown into jail. This is pure insanity. This is absolute, total rebellion, men putting their fists in the face of Almighty God and saying, "We don't care about your Law, we are doing things our way." That's what this is about and the true follower of Jesus Christ is called to stand against this mindset and this way of life.

I have spoken to Jeff once. His spirit is fine. He's inconvenienced, for sure. I am not going to stand here and tell you that jail is full of roses. It isn't. But Jeff knows who his King is. Jeff knows where his Citizenship is. And he's standing for the King and His Government. Pray for Jeff. Pray earnestly for Jeff. My prayer is that they will not keep this violent grocery store shopper in their cage for too long - but you never know.

We see in the news every single day - they let one violent criminal out of their jails every single day - many times to go right back and commit another truly violent act sometimes on the very day they were released. Yet, here is Jeff. For those of you who know him personally, he wouldn't harm a fly - as they say. Kind, gentle, a threat to no one - but - these brilliant men who have devised a "government" from the imagination of their heart - think it's a good way to use the resources they have stolen from other men - to keep someone like Jeff locked in a cage. Ridiculous. Evil. Pure evil.

Friends, I have told you this many times before (changing gears for just a minute). If you contact me and ask me to tell you if you are a Christian - I am not going to do that. That is not my job. I am no man's judge as to whether they are "saved" or not. Now, I can say this and I do say this - *generally speaking*. Did Jesus say or did He not say, "You know a man by his fruit?" paraphrasing. That precept is in the Bible, Matthew 7 gives a good description of this understanding.

All I can do is what every other preacher found in the Bible can do. Preach the Word of God. The prophets of old were raised by God to show the people their sin. To show them how they were not living the way God wanted them to live. That's what my job is and that's what I do. This is what the Word of God says - walk in it. Live this way.

You can't get mad at me - though many do. If you have a problem with the Word of God - go tell it to God. Go tell God that one of His preachers is preaching His Word and you have a problem with it. Why tell me? Why get mad at me? Who am I? All I'm doing is reading what everyone else has access to. I'm no one special. Each and every one of you that listen to my messages has access to the subject matter of my messages that I have. The written Word of God has been available to each and every one of us for as long as each of us have been on this earth. There is no reason that we all aren't arriving at the same conclusions.

Ok. The Bible teaches that God gives gifts to people to preach. I get that. I understand that. And I do not take that lightly.

Let me remind you again. Let me tell you again why my preaching is not the same as hardly anyone else's. And you'll just have to decide whether you're going to listen or not. And you do with that whatever you want to do with it. If you wish to turn me off for good, then so be it. You won't be the first, and you'll definitely not be the last. But here's my explanation.

At the age of 16, I realized, not even sure how because certainly no one else that I knew had expressed any thoughts even near to what I was understanding. But at age 16, 17 somewhere around there, I began to think that as a Christian, I should not have a

driver's license? So, yes, I did have one - one - when I was 16. At 17, it was taken away from me. Why? Because I had a couple speeding tickets within a certain period of time. Now, let me explain this. Both times - it was a fluke. I was not the normal teenager. I did not speed around. I didn't race, I wasn't wreckless. My Dad would have beaten me within an inch of my life if I ever put a scratch on one of his cars. I was as careful as careful could be.

One time, I had cruise control set to the speed limit. Back then, if you went down a steep hill, the cruise control might slow you down - or it might not slow you down. I had my Imperials cassette tape in blaring as loud as I could, the song "Praise the Lord", and I wasn't paying attention that the cruise control didn't slow me down. So, a cop pulled me over for going 71 in a 55 (that was a four lane highway which nowadays, it's perfectly fine to drive 71 because they changed the speed limit to 70 - and as a cop once told me - only criminals drive the speed limit. So you'd probably never get pulled over for going 71.) So one year it was a punishable offense to drive 71, but later on, it was perfectly fine. Well, that's not how it works with God's Laws. It is never okay to break God's Laws. They are easy to know what they are. And they never change from one generation to another. Not sure why that's so detestable.

So anyway, I had "points" on my license. In just a few months after that, I was late for picking up for baby brother from "church" camp. I was hurrying to get there because he had called me crying. Yes, literally crying, he was young. My brother is 7 years younger than me. Once again, I was pulled over for going 71 or 72 something like that in a 55 on the interstate. I received a letter from the state demanding that I surrender my license for 60 or 90 days, I forget which. At the time I was working - and guess what - I continued driving anyway. I was actually surprised that my mother allowed it - but she did. In fact, she only mentioned one time that "I shouldn't be doing that" - but she never kept me from driving anyway. Praise God.

When the 60 or 90 days was up, or nearing, I received another notice from god - little g. This time, god, little g was telling me that in order to get my license returned, I would have to provide proof of something called SR22 "insurance." Keep in mind, this was 1979 could have even been 78. And the cost for SR22 for someone my age was over 200.00 per month.

From the website https://www.in2013dollars.com/us/inflation/1979?amount=200 the equivalent of 200.00 from 1979 compared to today, quote:

Value of \$200 from 1979 to 2023

\$200 in 1979 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$837.82 today, an increase of \$637.82 over 44 years. The dollar had an average inflation rate of 3.31% per year between 1979 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 318.91%.

So what do you think a teenager's choice was in 1979 when it came to the demands of god little g? Now you know.

That was the first and last "driver's license" I had - and I learned some great lessons from that. Long story short - that was the beginning of my life experience leading me away from having anything to do with man's gods - their little g "governments." I have told you before how that even before that, before 1979, back in the 1960s, when the "state of Texas" was putting Lester Roloff through the fire - I just knew as a kid, as a child - that if the "state" was persecuting a "preacher" then I was on the side of the preacher. Same with Everett Sileven - who goes by Ramsey now. When the principality called "Nebraska" put him jail for refusing to "license" his "Christian school" - I was against the state and I was for the preacher.

Go back to the age of 8 or 9 when my Dad took me to see the Bob Jones University movie "Flame in the Wind." It was about the Spanish inquisition that was persecuting true Christians. Very very early on in life - I was developing - I was being molded - I was being shaped into an understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ - as opposed to being a follower of the state and the state "church."

Fast forward again just a few years after being a teenager. Entering "Bible college" getting an eye opener there with so many things that were taught that just didn't seem to align with the clear teachings of the Bible. Then, after leaving "Bible college" and going to work for two of the largest Baptist "churches" in America. Again. Major eye opening occurrences took place at both of those places.

I said all of that to say this - whether someone agrees with these things or not - is not why I'm saying them to you. Being anti-state and anti-church is not the point. My point is this. Because I have *been* anti-state and anti-"church" for basically my entire life - the way I read the Bible is going to be understood - by me - in a totally different way than for instance. Listen to this, from Baptist Press.com, headline:

99-year-old pastor receives Green Beret status

https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/99-year-old-pastor-receivesgreen-beret-status/

I'm not going to read the whole thing, but here's some of it.

PEARLAND, Texas (BP) — After World War II, decorated Army veteran Jesse Whitley returned home and became a soldier for the Lord, serving as a Baptist pastor and preacher for more than 45 years.

"Sgt." Whitley, who celebrated his 99th birthday Dec. 14, received renewed recognition on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, with Green Beret status for his service in a special forces unit nicknamed "the Devil's Brigade."

That's something to be proud of.

It came as a surprise to Whitley, who faced combat action with the First Special Service Force against the Japanese in Alaska's Aleutian Islands and against the Germans in Europe.

Whitley joined the U.S. Army on April 25, 1939, at age 19 in Texarkana, Ark., where he grew up. He was honorably discharged on Oct. 31, 1945.

The Veterans Day ceremony was held at First Baptist Church in Pearland, Texas. Whitley lives in the Houston suburb with his daughter, Vicki Cumbie, having moved from Arkansas about a year and a half ago.

FBC [First Baptist Church] Pearland member John Triplett spearheaded the effort to obtain Green Beret status for Whitley, who served in the First Special Service Force (FSSF), forerunner of the current U.S. Army Special Forces, whose elite troops wear the iconic Green Beret.

The FSSF garnered WWII fame for a 99-day period in 1943 when it operated behind enemy lines primarily at night, inspiring a 1966 book and a 1968 film based on the book, both titled "The Devil's Brigade."

How do they not have a problem with that??? (Charlie asking)

"I can't imagine me being this important to anyone," Whitley said in the interview. "It

made me feel humble. And I still feel humbled by that award. It was a thing that I'd hoped I would see when I came back to America. It took it a long time ... and I thank God that people will get a chance to recognize that American soldiers out there — our servicemen — need our support.

"And I'll tell you, they are worth every bit we can give them. And I thank God for them and thank God for everyone who will support them."

Also in the article.

In a phone interview, Whitley's daughter Vicki Cumbie acknowledged that "It's a great honor for his military service to be recognized. But it's also wonderful to know all the people that have been ministered to under him and his ministry.

"When my dad came home, he gave his heart to the ministry. He spent the rest of his life preaching Jesus and preaching salvation. And believe me, he's a salvation preacher."

Whitley served as pastor of six Arkansas churches: Ebenezer Baptist Church in Warren; Graves Memorial Baptist Church in North Little Rock; Hebron Baptist Church in Little Rock; Centennial Baptist Church in Pine Bluff; Lakeside Baptist Church in Hot Springs; and Green Meadows Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, where he retired.

"He's got a great military legacy and it's an honor," Cumbie said. "Also, his legacy is watching people get saved."

Now listen, please. I'm not doubting these people's sincerity. I'm not saying these are evil people. Although they were happy and bragged about being in "The Devil's Brigade." But my point is this. When someone like me reads the Bible, from the perspective that men do not have the Authority from God to make their own laws, their own CONstitutions, that men do not have the Authority from God to attack other men calling them "wars" because of oil, or resources that another part of the world has that the U.S. doesn't have - or in more modern times - because a country passes antihomosexuality "laws" or antiLGBTQ "laws" - then the U.S. might intervene to make that country conform. When men and women enter the U.S. military and swear an oath to defend the U.S. CONstitution and the laws and the treaties and all that. And I do not believe that any of that is Biblical. And that's my perspective when reading the Bible - then teaching what I believe God wants us to know.....is my perspective and understanding going to be different from that of pastor Jesse Whitley who does believe

that men can define good and evil, he does believe in the CONstitution and the laws and treaties, he doesn't have a problem being in **"The Devil's Brigade"**, he does believe that Jesus demanded His followers to "Render unto Caesar" and "obey all the laws of the land, obey the ordinances that man creates with his own imagination" and do see because God said so.

I ask you - are the perspectives, understandings and teachings of these two preachers going to be the same? No, they are not. In fact, in most ways, they are going to be pretty much the exact opposite. So what does that mean?

It means this - both could be wrong. Or one is right and the other is wrong.

When you listen to me preach, you are hearing preaching from someone who has never been a part of man's little g "government." You are hearing preaching from someone who believes that men's little g "governments" are in place to war against the Government of God and if Jesus Christ were here walking on this earth today - they would try to execute Him just like they did 2,000 years ago. And in the place of Jesus Christ today - when men's little g "governments" do encounter those who are following Jesus Christ and His Kingship today - they will do what they can do to try to torture them into denouncing the Government of God and then claiming men's little g "governments" for themselves.

That's what has been going on for as long as men have been rebelling against the Kingship of God. Today - Jesus Christ is King. His Government and His Father's Laws are what men are to obey. And who do you find doing all they can to to fight against God's Laws? Churchmen and politicians. They do what they do to try to convince men and women, boys and girls that God's Laws are done away with and they are now required to obey man's "laws." And we all need to decide whether that is true - or whether or not Jesus is King and we are to obey His Laws and His Father's Laws - it really is that simple.

I want you to turn to Ecclesiastes chapter 12. And let's begin in verse 1.

[1] Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;
[2] While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

[3] In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men

shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

[4] And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;

[5] Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

[Talking about people getting old.]

[6] Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

[7] Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Better not ever forget that. There is going to be a judgment.

[8] Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.

[9] And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

[**10**] The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

[11] The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

[**12**] And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

[13] Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

[14] For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Verse 12, there is an admonishment against making many books and against the weariness of much study. The reason is this. Because the duty and I'll say purpose of man is summed up in verse 13 and when understood - it explains why there is an admonishment against many books and against much study. It's not necessary.

[13] Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

It's very simple. The Wycliffe translation from the Latin Vulgate says it this way from verse 12:

12 My son, seek thou no more than these; none end there is to make many books, and oft thinking is (a) torment of [the] flesh.

13 All we hear together the end of speaking. Dread thou God, and keep His behests; that is (for) to know, every man.

14 God shall bring all things into doom, that be done; for each thing covered, either privy, whether it be good, or evil.

From Young's Literal Translation, beginning in verse 11:

Words of the wise [are] as goads, and as fences planted [by] the masters of collections, they have been given by one shepherd.

12 And further, from these, my son, be warned; the making of many books hath no end, and much study [is] a weariness of the flesh.

13 The end of the whole matter let us hear: -- `Fear God, and keep His commands, for this [is] the whole of man.

14 For every work doth God bring into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether good or bad.'

From the Coverdale Bible, which was the finished work of William Tyndale, verse 9:

The same preacher was not wyse alone, but taught the people knowlege also: he gaue good hede, sought out the groude (ground) and set forth many parables. His diligence was to fynde out acceptable wordes, right scripture, and the wordes of trueth.

For the wordes of ye wyse are like prickes and nales that go thorow, wherwith men are kepte together: for they are geuen of one shepherde onely.

Therfore bewarre (my sonne) that aboue these thou make the not many & innumerable bokes, nor take dyuerse doctrynes in hande, to weery thy body withall.

Lat vs heare the conclucion of all thinges: Feare God, and kepe His comaundementes, for that toucheth all men:

For God shall iudge all workes and secrete thinges, whether they be good or

euell.

Friends, from my simpleton mind, my simple way of looking at the Scripture - which comes from a simple approach - that all we as Christians are to be concerned with is God, His Son, His Word - what is so difficult about understanding this passage of Scripture? People have said that God gave Solomon more wisdom than any other man. And here is Solomon, a preacher in the Ekklesia of God, telling those that will listen - the conclusion of all things, the sum of the matter, the end of the whole matter - is to do this one thing:

Fear God and keep His Commandments.

There is warning. A simple warning in this passage also. Beware of too many books. Beware of too many studies. Beware of too many doctrines. Friends, how can someone look at this passage of Scripture and then justify man's "laws" and his "lawbooks" which are so many you can't even begin to count them? We are looking at the conclusion. We are looking at the end of the matter. Be warned of too many books. And to be safe, just Fear God and keep His Commandments.

His Commandments are contained in - I am holding a book that is barely 2 inches thick. How can anyone who has ever read this Book, this chapter, not walk away from here with the understanding that man's little g "governments" are not the plan of God?

We've left the simplicity of Christ, the simplicity of Solomon, the simplicity of the God of the Bible and have instead pursued the exact opposite - the making of many books, the endless study of everything except for what we should be studying - and that is the simplicity of what we find in verses such as Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

For God shall iudge all workes and secrete thinges, whether they be good or euell.

By whose definitions of good and evil? Whenever it is that God does this, will God bring out the volumes and volumes, the books and books, of man's definitions of good and evil - or will it be His definitions - contained in a simple Book that's barely 2 inches thick?

I'm telling you friends, God does not give mere men the Authority to define good and evil. And He absolutely does not give them the power to judge other men according to those definitions. And He absolutely does not give them the power to imprison other men or kidnap other men who refuse to yield to their definitions of good and evil.

This is what a Christian believes. This is what guides a Christian's life. This is what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. A Christian is one who understands - it's his faith - it's his system of belief - he understands

Lat vs heare the conclucion of all thinges: Feare God, and kepe his comaundementes, for that toucheth all men: For God shall iudge all workes and secrete thinges, whether they be good or euell.

And then, that belief system, that faith, causes him to live the way he lives. We're not taking about salvation by works, we're talking about works, living the way we do because of our beliefs. I don't see how someone can read this passage of Scripture and come away with the understanding that it is the Will of God for men to obey the commandments of other men. That it is the Will of God for men to make their own definitions of good and evil and then force everyone to obey them.

"Well, you can pick and choose what you want to obey and what you want to disobey." That is a precarious place to put onesself in and it is a recipe for disaster.

When they were in the process of kidnapping Jeff the other day, the "Christian cop" yes - the cop told Jeff he was a "Christian" of course he was - the cop kept insisting that Jeff admit to him that he "lived in Missouri." No. Christians do not live in Missouri. Christians do not live in California. Christians do not live in the united states of america, Christians do not live in the Philippines. Let me explain.

When I was going through my trials, one day, the judge (the final one) who had at least some sense of honesty about him, looked at me and said, "Charlie, your definitions of things are not our definitions. And you do not understand our definitions." Wow. What a statement. And that was 100% true.

The phrase "in Missouri" - to most people - pretty much everyone that is not in their law club - that means the geographic boundary created by the Mississippi river on the east and then whatever magical boundary they created on the west. But that is not what "in Missouri" means. "In Missouri" or "in the state of Missouri" - state of means - condition. In the condition of. We aren't talking geography. We are talking about a collection of people - yes - in a certain geography - but it's the people who have joined themselves by association and have agreed to be governed by a certain set of statutes called the "Revised Statutes of Missouri." Christians must never agree to this. Never, never, never. Christians are supposed to never be in any state - in any condition - other than - **in Christ Jesus**. In King Jesus. In the Government of God. We are not "in Missouri."

Jeff told the cop he was "in Christ." The cop said, "Yeah, me, too. But where do you sleep at night?" Well, first of all, that's none of his business. And second of all, that is irrelevant. Jesus said:

The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head.

Where we lay our head does not determine whose Government we have chosen to associate with. We are not "in Missouri" we are in Christ.

Why was this cop so wanting Jeff to admit that "he was in Missouri?" That's easy. Because if you are "in Missouri" that means you have agreed to obey the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Stay firm - if you are ever in that situation - that you are not a state citizen - you are not a Missouri citizen - you are a Citizen of the Commonwealth of Israel and you are in Christ.

I told Matthew the other day, Missouri is not in the Bible. The united states of america is not in the Bible. The Philippines are not in the Bible. With all the confusion that is everywhere in the world today - personally, I think the best place to remain is just with Bible terms. You can't go wrong sticking with Bible terms. If it's not in there, then don't use it. And understand, I'm talking about dealing with men's little g "governments." The cop was trying to get Jeff to say he was part of the association known as Missouri. When they do that - then they are going to say that as a Missouri "resident" you have agreed - whether or not you did or did not - to obey the Statutes of Missouri.

And I have gone to painstaking detail in going through the Word of God showing where God said - as clearly as anything ever was in the Scripture - **do not obey the statutes of men.** Friends, it doesn't matter if they take the Bible and remove the words Holy Bible from the cover and replace it with "The Revised Statutes of Missouri" - we are not to obey the statutes of men.

Now. How is it that there are so few of us that get this? Over the last couple weeks, we looked at Ted Cruz's Twitter discussion concerning his support for LGBTQ. There were two glaring things that stood out.

1) He called God's moral Laws, "Old Covenant Laws" and they have no standing in the New Covenant. Jesus did away with them. They were nailed to the cross - now - "we are talking about man's laws."

So, he is saying that Jesus did away with God's "horrible" Laws - so that men could be free to obey their laws - which are way better than God's. What we just read in Ecclesiastes chapter 12 - that's been done away with!

2) He played the "Render unto Caesar" card - utterly destroyed it like the rest of them do and basically said that Jesus came to once and for all - replace the Kingship of God with the kingship of "Caesars." That is exactly what he said and exactly what he believes and pretty much the entire "church world" is on board with that churchology. Not even going to justify that with the word theology - because it does not come from God - it comes from the enemies of God. It comes from "The Devil's Brigade."

Jesus Christ never told His followers to "Render unto Caesar" anything. He told His enemies to Render unto Caesar because they belonged to Caesar - but He told His followers to Render unto God because they belonged to Him.

How a man could ever read Ecclesiastes 12 - and friends - when I was a little boy playing "church" the first time I ever saw Ecclesiastes 12 - was in "church." The "church" knows that passage is in there. How they could ever read that passage - then conclude that Jesus changed all that? That's just crazy. That doesn't make any sense at all. God told Solomon to put it on the record, write it down for future sake, make this plain for all to see, the conclusion of the matter is to Fear God and keep His Commandments....then God sends His Son to tell everyone He really didn't mean that? Come on. That is crazy.

It's no wonder the "church" is the laughingstock it is. The "church" has turned the God of the Bible into a schizophrenic, mixed up, lunatic.

So what does the "church" do? We saw it. Just like Ted Cruz said. It's Old. It's Old Covenant, it's Old Testament. It has no relevance today. We are in the New today. And the "horrible, awful" Laws of God have been replaced with the good and perfect laws of men. Then, because they have zero spiritual discernment, rather than make the first 39 Books of the Bible agree with the last 27, whenever they don't understand something - and of course they don't understand the first 39. The first 39 were old, the only significance they have is the cute little bedtime stories they find there. The Genesis Creation story is interesting for a little child. The talking snake is great for movies and cartoons. The story of the big flood. Oh my. That's great bedtime material. How about Jonah getting swallowed by a whale. Oooh, that's a good one. And, "Jesus is going to be with you when you get sick and go to the doctor, because, remember that cute little story about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego getting thrown into the fiery furnace? Remember that? Jesus was right there with them as if He was helping them with the pain of a hangnail.

No. That's God trying to wake people up to the truth that when you choose to follow the Kingship of God in your life - you very well could face the death penalty from men's little g "governments" when you challenge their power by standing for the exclusive Government of God and His Laws.

But of course, that wouldn't make for a very good bedtime story for the kid whose being taught that God wants him to grow up and be a good citizen of the u.s. and pay his taxes and join the military and be part of "The Devil's Brigade."

Friends, if Render unto Caesar seems to contradict Thou shalt have no other rulers before Me - then I think we better do some study of the first 39 Books to find out what Jesus really meant by that. God did not tell men that their whole duty was the Fear God and keep His Commandments, then a few hundred years later, tell them He was just kidding.

Contrary to the naysayers and scoffers out there, the Luke 20 passage that contains the phrase "Render therefore unto Caesar" is a reenactment of the principles found in the "Old" story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal from I Kings chapter 18. Anyone who scoffs at the comparison has the Biblical aptitude of a mite. I Kings 18:21

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Luke 20:21-26

And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that Thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest Thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly:

[22] Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?

[23] But He perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye Me?[24] Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's.

[**25**] And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.

[**26**] And they could not take hold of His words before the people: and they marvelled at His answer, and held their peace.

The similarity of those two passages is nothing short of breathtaking. Yet, for those who believe that Jesus did away with Ecclesiastes 12 - Fear God and keep His Commandments - and replaced it with "obey men's 'laws'" - or Render unto Caesar as in a command for Christians to obey men instead of Christ - is just amazing to me - *but for perspective*. If a man was in the u.s. military, or if a man is or was a cop, it is going to be easy, easy easy to convince that man that Jesus did away with God's "horrible, awful Old Covenant Laws" and replaced them with man's perfect, way better, way more compassionate, way more righteous, way more holy - laws than God's. You'll have preachers standing in their pulpits telling people how proud they were to be part of "The Devil's Brigade." Unbelievable.

Turn with me please to I Peter chapter 2.

And let's begin in verse 1. I realize we've been here. We've looked at this. For those of who believe that Ecclesiastes chapter 12 is still valid for today - it is not difficult to understand this passage. For those who believe that God's horrible, awful Laws in the first 39 Books were done away with - then it is easy to understand how they can come up with their teaching of this chapter.

Futurism plays a role in a man's misunderstanding of I Peter chapter 2. Failing to understand Ekklesia versus "church" plays a role in a man's misunderstanding of I Peter chapter 2. Failing to understand that the Bible - from cover to cover is a Book about the nation of God - called Israel in the first 39 Books - then called the commonwealth of Israel in the last several books - failing to understand this will cause a man to misunderstand I Peter 2. Begin please with verse 1. [1] Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

[2] As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

[3] If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

[4] To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

Let me read that again - speaking of Jesus Christ.

[4] To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

[5] Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

[6] Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.

Friends, this passage of Scripture is talking about the Government of God. It is talking about King Jesus. It is talking about the promises of God that are fulfilled in Christ which were first prophesied - specifically concerning this passage - from the Book of Psalms - written by David - the one to whom the promise concerning a King sitting on His throne was to. Keep your finger here, and turn to Psalm 118. Begin, please, in verse 1. If you have any hope of understanding I Peter chapter 2 - you must know what was written in Psalm 118. Just like Luke 20. If you have any hope of understanding Luke 20 you must first understand I Kings 18 - all in the light of Ecclesiastes chapter 12 which is the conclusion of the whole matter.

O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: because His mercy endureth for ever.

[2] Let Israel now say, that His mercy endureth for ever.

We are talking about Israel. The Bible is a Book about Israel. This is why every single week, I beg people who say they are Christians to identify as Israel - the Commonwealth of Israel - and refuse to be marked, refused to be identified, as a citizen of the world. Christians are supposed to be Israel. Verse 3.

[3] Let the house of Aaron now say, that His mercy endureth for ever.

[4] Let them now that fear the LORD say, that His mercy endureth for ever.

[5] I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place.

[6] The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Oh how I hope that Jeff can hear this message this morning. My heart breaks for Jeff but we have confidence and hope and trust in our faith - our system of belief which tells us

The LORD is on our side; we will not fear: what can man do unto us?

[7] The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

[8] It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

[9] It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes. [in principalities]

[10] All nations compassed me about: but in the name of the LORD will I destroy them.

How does that work? How does that fit with churchology? It doesn't. This is all Old Testament. It has no relevance for today. Right?

[**11**] They compassed me about; yea, they compassed me about: but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

[**12**] They compassed me about like bees; they are quenched as the fire of thorns: for in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

[13] Thou hast thrust sore at me that I might fall: but the LORD helped me.

[14] The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

[**15**] The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

[**16**] The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

[17] I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

[**18**] The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

[**19**] Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD:

[20] This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter.

[21] I will praise Thee: for Thou hast heard me, and Art become my salvation.[22] The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

[23] This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the prophecy that was fulfilled in I Peter chapter 2. This is nearly word for word from I Peter 2. And people want to say that I Peter 2 is about obeying men's "governments."

[24] This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the prophecy concerning I Peter chapter 2 and you are trying to tell me I Peter chapter 2 is God telling His people to obey the little g "governments" of men? How ludicrous. That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard. These people have suffered so much shell shock from serving in their military and having bombs going off and bullets whizzing past their heads - it's done serious damage to their cognitive abilities. I Peter chapter 2 is the fulfillment of Psalm 118 and it's the King, the Lord in all His glory revealed in the New Covenant World. This about the House of God. This is about the name of Christ. This is about the Authority of Christ. This is not talking about men's little g "governments." As in obeying them. It's talking about destroying them. Keep your finger here in Psalm 118 and turn to Matthew 21 - we're coming back to Psalm 118. Matthew 21, verse 33.

[**33**] Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

[**34**] And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

[**35**] And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

[**36**] Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

[37] But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

[**38**] But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

[**39**] And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

[**40**] When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

[41] They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

[42] Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, [Did you never read Psalm 118?] The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Today, I ask the same question. Did you never read in the Scriptures? Or have you just been too busy telling everyone that's the Old Covenant. We're talking about the laws of men not the Old Covenant Laws of God. We're talking about Render unto Caesar, not If God be your God, serve Him. Friends, Jesus is quoting Psalm 118 - word for word. We better know what is found in Psalm 118 before we try to understand I Peter 2. Because I Peter 2 is also nearly word for word what we find in Psalm 118. Jesus is that Stone. And when He set up His Kingdom at the end of the world - this is what He prophesied:

[43] Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

[44] And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

That's the nation He's talking about in I Peter chapter 2.

[**45**] And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard His parables, they perceived that He spake of them.

[**46**] But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitude, because they took Him for a prophet.

Yeah, you better believe He was talking about them. And He was talking about the Caesars and He was talking about all those who opposed His Government. And the language we are reading originated first in Psalm 118 - then we find Jesus referencing it in Matthew 21, then we find it again in I Peter 2. If we don't understand Psalm 118, if we don't understand Matthew 21 - we cannot understand I Peter 2. Back to Psalm 118, verse 25.

[25] Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

[**26**] Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

Again. What is name? It's Authority.

[27] God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.

[28] Thou art my God, and I will praise Thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee.

[29] O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever.

Back to I Peter 2 verse 7. I have to hurry.

[7] Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

[8] And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

[9] But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light:

[**10**] Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

This is the fulfillment of Psalm 118. This is the fulfillment of Matthew 21.

[11] Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

[**12**] Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

[**13**] Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the King, as supreme;

Alright. This is where it all gets lost. Because people lose sight of Ecclesiastes 12 or they rule it out as Old. Because people lose sight of I Kings 18 or rule it out because it's Old. Because they never knew that this chapter is the fulfillment of Psalm 118 because the Book of Psalms is Old - they cannot understand what verse 13 means.

All of this is about the Government of God. It's about the Kingship of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ did not tell His followers that He was getting ready to destroy their "governments" because He was the Stone which the builders rejected - then have Peter come along and tell those same followers to obey "Caesar". That is not what this means.

Once again, because "church" is filled with ex-military, it's filled with politicians and the like who tell people we aren't talking about God's "horrible, awful Old Covenant Laws", we are talking about man's laws. It cannot understand the meaning of the Word of God and we need to tell them - the principalities - to Sit down. You are no authority concerning the Word of God. You've already taken more than half the Book and relegated it to the dunghill - you can't possibly understand the last 27 when you've discarded the first 39.

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake

That does not mean ordinances that man has invented. God does not allow men to make Ordinances. God does not allow men to make their own definitions of right and wrong, good and evil. God did not declare that a judgment would come - and the judgment would come concerning how men have obeyed or disobeyed men's definitions of good and evil. That is ridiculous.

This is what this means. Reading from the notes of the Geneva Bible from 1599. Please listen. This is part (c)

(c) By ordinance, is meant the inventing and ordering of civil government, which he calls ordinance of man, not because man invented it, but because it is proper for men.
(16) The first argument: because the Lord is the author and avenger of this policy of men, that is, which is set among men: and therefore the true servants of the Lord must above all others be diligent observers of this order.

Ordinance doesn't mean that man invented it. It means that the Ordinance - which is a Law of God - is proper to all men. All men are to obey the Ordinances that God created - for all men to obey.

If people read passages such as this one - and had passages such as Ecclesiastes 12 burned into their minds - they would understand that they have to make what they read in I Peter 2 agree with they have already read in Ecclesiastes 12.

The conclusion of the whole matter is to Fear God and keep His Commandments.

That never changed. It is utter blasphemy to say that Jesus came and changed Ecclesiastes chapter 12 into ordinances that men have created. That is not what it means.

Now, please do not misunderstand me. I am not validating the margin notes of the Geneva Bible. e don't need the margin notes of the Geneva Bible. We need Psalm 118. We need I Kings 18. We need Matthew 21.

That's not what I'm doing. But in this instance, in regards to what this means

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake

they got that right. This whole chapter is the fulfillment of Psalm 118 and Matthew 21 both of which are about the Government of God and both of which are built on the foundation laid in Ecclesiastes - the preacher of the Ekklesia - the Government of God -

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Please remember to keep Jeff in your prayers as he is being held captive by the enemies of Jesus Christ and His Government.