

## **Matthew 24 Series - Luke 21**

### **Part 10 in the Series - What's Your Perspective?**

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Well here we are again - it's just amazing how the time flies by.

I have prepared another song for you today. I hope this blesses you. Listen now to I Know Who Holds Tomorrow.

I was encouraged last week as I am now able to look behind the scenes, so to speak, and see if people are actually listening to the messages being played on Missouri Liberty Radio and I was delighted to see people from as far east as New York city and as far west as California and as far north as Michigan. That's just great.

I want you to understand that I don't take this lightly. My messages are not just something that popped into my head. They are the result of 50 years of walking with Christ. Of course, I realize there are a lot of other preachers than can say the same thing - but I want you to understand that each preacher that preaches understands the Scriptures from the perspective of things that have occurred and are occurring in their lives. It has to be. We cannot separate our understanding from our perspective.

Let me explain and give a few examples.

Let's say that you were in the U.S. military. And you were a chaplain in the military. You have more than likely entered that realm because you believe in supporting the U.S. government - even to death. So you believe your cause is good and even more - you believe your cause is godly.

You receive your "paycheck" as it may be, from the United States government. Your approach to the Scriptures then - right or wrong - is skewed from a viewpoint that the Government of God is implemented on earth - through the U.S. government and as such - certain passages of Scripture that you refer to - will come from that slant. It has to.

The simple phrase, "don't bite that hand that feeds you" is at work in this situation.

Forget the military, say you are just a normal, preacher in anytown U.S.A. Your "church"

is a 501(c)(3) government corporation. You benefit from tax-exempt status and from the tax-deductible gift. Your tax-exempt status has been very good to you. Tax-deductible gifts have been very profitable for you.

As a result, you simply cannot present an unbiased view of the Scriptures - particularly when they relate to men's governments and men's statutes. You aren't going to "rock the boat" you're not going to go against the "status quo" you just aren't going to jeopardize your "income."

If you are questioned about this, no doubt you will end up arguing that everything you do - moneywise - is for God and His advancement.

I served in a ministry position in a couple very large Baptist churches and I was told that for the "sake of the ministry" you turn a blind eye to certain things you saw.

When I was young, preachers used to preach against the liquor stores. This preaching was so bored into my brain - that even today - if I go into a gas station and see the walls lined with alcoholic products I immediately feel uneasy about my surroundings.

Enter a bar? Not a chance.

Preachers used to preach against gambling. The other day I came across a very popular Baptist website and there was a video of the "preacher" in a casino. Playing! Unbelievable. Even godless America knew at one time that gambling was against God's Law - that's why there only two places in the U.S. where gambling was "legal."

But see, since the government wanted to use another unlawful, ungodly method of extracting money from people through their lotteries, they gradually legalized gambling everywhere. And, since the government says its "legal" then apparently some "preachers" now believe it is lawful.

Amazing. Friends, we need to understand that man refers to their system as legal and illegal. While God refers to His ways as Lawful and Unlaw. It is things that are Lawful and Unlawful that we as follows of Christ should only be concerned with.

We need to understand that it is the ultimate rebellion against God for a man to take it upon himself to determine what is good and what is evil. God has never relinquished that job. In the garden of Eden, the serpent convinced Adam and Eve that it was okay for them to take it upon themselves to determine good and evil.

In Matthew 7:21-23, Christ said the following:

[21] Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

[22] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

[23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Have you ever wondered why the word "iniquity" is used here in verse 23? Why not "Depart from me, ye that sin, or transgress the Law of God?" Why the word "iniquity" here?

The word "iniquity" as it is found in Matthew 7:23 means "legal injustice." What does this mean? It means men who create their own systems of statutes and by passing their own statutes - they create "legal injustice."

There is injustice all around us today in America. And it's all legal.

In America today, let me tell you something - outside of a few that are used as examples on the federal level - rich people are not in jail.

Visit to the local county jails. You will not find rich people there. Rich people, who can buy the most cunning of lawyers available, are basically able to buy their way out of whatever situation they find themselves in.

And the poor, many of which are not guilty of any crimes at all - waste away in jail or prison because they didn't have the money to beat the system.

In America today, government - with the aid of the preacher - has put itself in the place of God. It has become the educator, provider, protector, physician, record keeper, from cradle to grave and nearly everyone in this civilization today seems to be just fine with it.

Prior to the very early 1900s in America, when a child was born, the birth of that child was recorded in the family Bible. And during those days, no one questioned who the children belonged to. There was never an argument that arose where people had to stand up and fight and say - "the government doesn't own my child."

Today, when the family is assaulted by different govt agencies and children are used as political pawns, people scratch their heads and wonder how it can be.

As we progressed into the 1900s, the practice of recording our children's births in the family Bible was replaced with recording their births with the state. This was the beginning of government believing that they not only owned all the land - but they owned the people as well.

The people - through their own blind acceptance that govt was their friend - willingly began to give up the attributes of God in their lives - and turn them over to men. Men who were not their friends. But in all truth, wolves in sheep's clothing is what they were and are today.

I said all that to say this. When I was in the days of becoming an adult, I was exposed to a lot of ideas that were - even at that time - considered radical - and today are considered out of this world extreme. But, I absolutely believe that many - not all - but many of those concepts and beliefs were taken directly from the pages of Holy Writ and from the words of testimony of some very valiant men and women followers of Christ who were willing to lay down their lives for their faith.

Let me give you an example.

You all should well know by now, that I believe that the Kingdom of God is a present-day reality - right now. Today. Christ is King. He has a Government. And I believe His Government to be the only legitimate, God ordained Government on earth today.

I believe that all governments that are in place around the world today - are in place - for one or two reasons - they have the most buying power and the biggest guns. That's it. Quite simple.

I believe that all these governments, the U.S., the U.K., Russia, China, Iran, just fill in the blank - they are all in place to keep people from being able to enter into the only legitimate Government on earth - the Kingdom of Christ.

Anyone who tries to enter the Kingdom of God and live according to the Laws of God, will come under serious persecution - no matter where they are on earth today.

Why is the Kingdom of God so offensive to these "governments?"

We've talked about some of this before. Let me give you just a few reasons again.

In the Kingdom of God, land cannot be taxed. Men can freely live on their land without fear of it being taken away from them if they don't pay feudal fees every year.

In the Kingdom of God, a man's labor may not be taxed.

In the Kingdom of God, man's freedom or movement cannot be restricted, taxed, or otherwise taken from him unless he has violated the Laws of God by harming another man or another man's property.

In the Kingdom of God, bankruptcy laws do not exist. If you owe a man something, you either pay him back or you work it off until the debt is paid. You don't just get to go to court and pay a lawyer to get your bills wiped out. Doesn't work that way in God's Government.

In the Kingdom of God, you aren't just allowed to start making up your own statutes and allow people to do things that God says you can't do. It just doesn't work that way.

In the Kingdom of God, money or currency, is something that has value. Typically, gold, silver and other precious metals would be a good choice. Certainly not something like a piece of paper that can have its value manipulated just by strategically adding an extra 0 here or there.

See, here's my problem. Years ago. I mean like 40 of them. I was reading the Bible and I came across a passage in I Timothy 6. Now if I was going to talk about money, most people who know what's in this passage would say, he's going to quote verse 10 about the love of money. But that's not what I'm talking about right now. I'm talking about verse 17, here it is - and it is a continuing passage of Scripture that is talking about money:

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; "

At this same young age where I found this passage, I also heard on the news every day things like - the dollar was down today, or the stock market was up today, or the stock market was down today.

So, in my youth and apparent naivety, I made the association between the two and concluded God was telling people who would listen to Him that something was wrong with the dollar - and something was wrong with the stock market.

About this same time, I was able to obtain an 1828 Webster's Dictionary. One day I looked up the definition for the word money. In 1828, this is what people understood as the definition of money:

**1.** Coin; stamped metal; any piece of metal, usually gold, silver or copper, stamped by public authority, and used as the medium of commerce. We sometimes give the name of *money* to other coined metals, and to any other material which rude nations use a medium of trade. But among modern commercial nations, gold, silver and copper are the only metals used for this purpose. Gold and silver, containing great value in small compass, and being therefore of easy conveyance, and being also durable and little liable to diminution by use, are the most convenient metals for coin or *money* which is the representative of commodities of all kinds, of lands, and of every thing that is capable of being transferred in commerce.

**2.** Bank notes or bills of credit issued by authority, and exchangeable for coin or redeemable, are also called money; as such notes in modern times represent coin, and are used as a substitute for it. If a man pays in hand for goods in bank notes which are current, he is said to pay in ready *money*.

Around this time again in my life, I came across another interesting passage of Scripture related to money - particularly gold and silver.

Look with me to II Kings 23: begin in verse 35. At this time, Jehoiakim was King and look at what he did.

[35] And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh: he exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, of every one according to his taxation, to give it unto Pharaoh-nechoh.

[36] Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

[37] And he did that which was evil in the sight of Yahweh, according to all that his fathers had done.

Hmmm. So God said that what Jehoiakim had turn was evil in the sight of God. In this passage, Jehoiakim did several things that God apparently HATED and called evil.

1) He taxed the land;

2) He took the silver and gold away from the people and gave it to someone else.

The exact same things have and are happening in America today - and we think absolutely nothing of it. And very very few people even know how much God hates what we have done and what we have allowed to happen on our soil and in our lives.

Looking around me at such a young age, I saw this and a whole lot more that disillusioned me to the governments of men. But at that time, I did not realize there was another alternative.

There's always been another alternative.

When it seems like everyone around you does not want to follow God - as were in the days of Joshua - there's always a choice.

Look with me to Joshua 24:

[1] And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

[2] And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith Yahweh God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

[3] And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

[4] And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.

[5] I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out.

[6] And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea.

[7] And when they cried unto Yahweh, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.

[8] And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you.

[9] Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you:

[10] But I would not hearken unto Balaam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand.

[11] And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and

the Gergashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I delivered them into your hand.

[12] And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites; but not with thy sword, nor with thy bow.

[13] And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

[14] Now therefore fear Yahweh, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye Yahweh.

[15] And if it seem evil unto you to serve Yahweh, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh.

[16] And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake Yahweh, to serve other gods;

[17] For Yahweh our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:

[18] And Yahweh drove out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve Yahweh; for he is our God.

[19] And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve Yahweh: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

[20] If ye forsake Yahweh, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

[21] And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve Yahweh.

[22] And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen ye Yahweh, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses.

[23] Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto Yahweh God of Israel.

[24] And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

[25] So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

[26] And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of Yahweh.

[27] And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of Yahweh which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.



[28] So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

[29] And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Yahweh, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

[30] And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-serah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash.

[31] And Israel served Yahweh all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of Yahweh, that he had done for Israel.

[32] And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

[33] And Eleazar the son of Aaron died; and they buried him in a hill that pertained to Phinehas his son, which was given him in mount Ephraim.

Today, the same thing could be said. If you think it's even to serve Yahweh - and Him alone - then so be it - but as for me and my house - we are going to serve Yahweh.

The difference between today and Joshua's day - is that the Israelites repented and chose to follow Yahweh like Joshua said.

Today - we are in a situation where the great majority of people believe that following their own gods and their own governments is what's right - and if you are on the other side of that opinion - it can get painful.

In Hebrews 11, the faith of Moses is discussed. Moses was raised by Pharaoh's daughter. Moses could have probably had anything he wanted in the Egyptian government - but this is what was said about Moses:

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

[25] Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

[26] Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

[27] By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Moses forsook it all. All the treasures in Egypt - to follow Christ.

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king...

Moses had a choice in who was going to be his King. Knowing that not choosing the present earthly king was going to make that earthly king angry - he choose the Kingdom of God - anyway.

A few minutes ago, I referenced being dissillusioned at what I thought was my only choice for government. It's sad that recognizing evil around us is what leads us many times to looking for a different way.

Today, I try to emphasize my choice of Government for all of it's great and wonderful characteristics as opposed to discussing the evils of choices.

In the world we live in today, it seems far easier to identify the evil than it is to speak of the good.

Again, while I was being shaped and molded into my perception of the Scriptures - I came across this passage of Scripture: This is Jeremiah 6:

[1] O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Beth-haccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.

[2] I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.

[3] The shepherds with their flocks shall come unto her; they shall pitch their tents against her round about; they shall feed every one in his place.

[4] Prepare ye war against her; arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe unto us! for the day goeth away, for the shadows of the evening are stretched out.

[5] Arise, and let us go by night, and let us destroy her palaces.

[6] For thus hath Yahweh of hosts said, Hew ye down trees, and cast a mount against Jerusalem: this is the city to be visited; she is wholly oppression in the midst of her.

[7] As a fountain casteth out her waters, so she casteth out her wickedness: violence and spoil is heard in her; before me continually is grief and wounds.

[8] Be thou instructed, O Jerusalem, lest my soul depart from thee; lest I make thee desolate, a land not inhabited.

[9] Thus saith Yahweh of hosts, They shall thoroughly glean the remnant of Israel as a vine: turn back thine hand as a grapegatherer into the baskets.

[10] To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of Yahweh is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

[11] Therefore I am full of the fury of Yahweh; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even

the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days.

[12] And their houses shall be turned unto others, with their fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith Yahweh.

[13] For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

[14] They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

[15] Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith Yahweh.

[16] Thus saith Yahweh, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

[17] Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.

[18] Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them.

[19] Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

No Lord. Not everyone. Not everyone today is going to reject you.

So, I began to see that I had a choice today.

The following passage may have been the passage that pushed me all in on the Kingdom of God. It's I Peter 2: beginning in verse 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,

[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.

[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.

Now please watch this closely:

[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.

Who? Who is a holy nation? Verse 7.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious:

[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;

[14] Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

[15] For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

[16] As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

[17] Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

There it is. Do you want to be a citizen of a holy nation today? Here it is. This was the very foundation of it. It began with the first century believers. Built on the Rock which is Christ Jesus and available now to ALL who will follow as verse 7 says.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious:

I can't read this passage of Scripture without mentioning verses 13 and verses 17. I believe this passage of Scripture to be one of the most important in all the Scriptures. It is not without reason that men who despise the Kingdom of God and the Kingship of Christ would not attack this passage with all the fury of hell they can muster.

Indeed, they did attack this passage. They twisted it into something it was never intended to say or mean.

The context of this passage of Scripture is about NOTHING but the people of God and a nation of people that God has claimed for His own.

Yet, evil men took this passage and destroyed it for their wicked ways.

If you were to take a first edition 1611 King James Bible - or take a 1599 Geneva Bible and look at verses 13 and verses 17 - you will instantly see what I am talking about.

When my children were very very young. They were never told about being citizens of the U.S. or citizens of Missouri. They were taught only of citizenship in the Kingdom of God and ruled by King Jesus, alone. I can still hear their sweet little voices in my ears as I would read to them I Peter 2 and when I got to verse 13, I would ask: "Who's your King?" And they would all answer, "Jesus."

When I got to verse 17, I would ask, "Who's your King?" And they would all answer, "Jesus."

In the first edition King James and in the 1599 Geneva, when you look at these two verses, the word King is capitalized. Clearly those who put those two books together, knew that the King of I Peter 2 was referring to Jesus.

If you take those same two old English Bibles and look up every single time in the New Testament the word king is found. You will find that in EVERY single instance - when Christ is discussed, the letter is a capital K. Whenever an earthly king is discussed, it is a small k.

You can still this very clearly in Matthew 2 when the text says, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews." Capital K. In verse 1 and verse 3 where Herod is spoken of - it is a small k.

All of this and more is on my website. I believe it is so important, it takes up most all of the Home page.

So, I said all that to say this. For my entire adult life and even some of my late teen years - I have done everything I can possibly do to live only as a citizen of the Kingdom

of God. I have not made agreements with men's governments. I have never given my consent to be a citizen of any other government than God's.

That being the case, you should be able to see that I have a very unique perspective when it comes to understanding the Word of God.

I'm not coming to you with a message tainted by the 501(c)(3) government corporation. I'm not coming to you with an earthly agenda and with bias opposed to the simple teaching of the Kingdom of God.

I've often said this - if I am wrong - then here's what I'm guilty of. I am guilty of giving Christ TOO MUCH place in my life and in the world today.

I'm not saying that in an arrogant or puffed up manner. I'm simply saying that I do not believe that God allows anyone other than His Son to be King. I believe He is the only One qualified and ordained to Rule. I believe it is God's Laws alone that determine what is good and what is evil.

If God says it's good, then it's good. If God says it's evil, then it's evil. We don't add to the Word of God. We don't take away from the Word of God.

If God says do this or do that - we obey. If He says don't do this, don't do that - we obey.

If everyone around us wants to serve a different King or wants to serve their own laws, statutes and treaties - then we must do as the apostles did - We must obey God rather than men.

Look, realize this, when I told the highway patrolman that I try to follow the Laws of God - he already had some warped idea that the Laws of God were bad. That's what he was told in his southern Baptist church.

He took my words and twisted them into something I never said.

I've had judges look at me with such disdain and disgust because they think that if someone says they want to follow the Laws of God - they interpret this to mean that this person wants to be "lawless" and do whatever they want - like murder, rape, etc. That's totally absurd.

Following the Laws of God means that you will not be Lawless - in fact - it is an

impossibility.

Galatians 5:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

No lawbreaking when we walk according to the fruit of the Spirit.

Why would any government be opposed to this?

I'm reminded of Paul out in Oregon who preached the Kingdom of God. One day he was hauled in before a judge and knowing some of Paul's peaceful Kingdom preaching, this judge said, "If everyone believed like you do, I wouldn't have a job."

The horror. Amazing. But true. Kind of. In the Kingdom of God, there are only Godly judges who continually give themselves to the study of the Law of God to rule - or measure - the actions of people according to the Laws of God as found in the Scripture.

So, I said all that to say this. Why should you examine what I have said in my Matthew 24 Series? Why should you examine any of the messages that I have preached?

I believe I am coming from a perspective that very few preachers have come from - possibly in the entire 1900s and 2000s.

Again, don't take that as an arrogant statement. It isn't. I've often asked my wife, "I wonder why God shaped me and molded me this way."

Of all the others He could have led into this way of thinking, why me? I have no idea.

One day I quoted the passage of Scripture from Romans 13:8 "owe no man anything" as to why I do not believe in being in debt - and the person to whom I spoke that to sniped back at me and said, "That's your interpretation."

I just shook my head wondering why something so simple.

I wonder why I can read Revelation 1:1 -

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants

things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

and then fail to reason how others can read those simple words and allow "shortly come to pass" to mean thousands of years.

I wonder how I can read Revelation 1:8

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

and then fail to reason how others cannot see this as absolute fulfillment when Christ told Caiaphas - the one directly responsible for piercing Christ - "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

I wonder how I can read Revelation 1 verse 3:

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

and then fail to understand how others can hear the words "for the time is at hand" and say that this means 2,000 years further down the road.

Or I wonder how I can read Revelation 22:6-10

"And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

[7] Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

[8] And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

[9] Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

[10] And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand."

and I can see things like "the things which must shortly be done" and "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand" and say, yes, it all



happened - just like the book says.

While others will look at those same words and say - nope - "time at hand" is still waiting some 2,000 years later.

It just doesn't make sense to me.

But I'll tell you what does make sense to me. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

If you are teaching and believing that the Kingdom of God - in any shape or form - is in the future - then your perspective is off. You're like the man who built his house on the sand. Your foundation is off. You can have a few nails or boards in the right place - but the foundation is off and the house is not going to be right. But if you've built on the right foundation, you get it started off correctly - the rest is going to follow.

The old paths are where we need to be looking for answers. The old paths are built on the proper foundation. It's all about the Kingdom of God - it's all about the Kingdom of Christ. Moses knew it. Joshua knew it. Daniel knew it. Joel knew it. John the Baptist knew it. Christ knew it. After the resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew it. They all preached the Kingdom of Christ exclusive of all others.

That's the proper perspective for understanding the Word. That's why the proper understanding of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy is so vital and that's why Matthew 24 concludes that "This generation, the generation to whom Christ was sent, 2,000 years, this generation, shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Can you imagine with me for just a second. Think about this. The modern preacher has preached his entire ministry that the Kingdom of God is in the future. Some day, Jesus is going to come back to this earth and set up His one world government. This is supposed to happen in the future.

Meanwhile, the modern preacher has spent his entire ministry preaching obedience to man's governments and man's statutes. He has even gone so far as to say that God's Laws are evil. They were bad, that's why God did away with them and they are not in force today.

So what's this Jesus going to do when He comes back to set up His one world government? Whose Laws are going to be used to Govern? Are those evil Laws of God

going to be used or is He going to keep man's statutes in place? What's going to be the law of the land? Is the US Constitution going to be the law of the land?

Is the supreme court of the U.S. going to be in place?

Are the bankruptcy laws going to stay in place?

Are you following me how stupid this is?

If this ridiculous scenario would take place, those who have preached that the Laws of God are invalid are going to look pretty stupid because the King has already established a long time ago that He was all about keeping His Father's commandments.

I realize that this message was not squarely centered on Matthew 24, but it's part of the conclusion that we come to when we realize that Matthew 24 is fulfilled Bible prophecy. The fulfillment of Matthew 24 sets our foundation for the proper understanding of the Kingdom of God and our life in it today.

Most all preachers preach the Kingdom of God. But it's relevance today is reserved only for the "spiritual realm" and it has no real physical significance or application today. Most all preachers preach that any real physical significance of the Kingdom of God is future. As long as they preach that the physical significance of the Kingdom of God is future - they will continue to have all the backing men's governments today.

The future kingdom is not a threat to men's governments today. And as long as men's governments are unopposed in their ways - for the time being - all is well.

But friends, all may be well with government and their friends - but all is not well with the God of Heaven. A man's ways are right in his own eyes, but the ends thereof are death.

It doesn't have to continue this way. We all have a choice. We may have been born into an earthly citizenship - but we can all be reborn into citizenship in the Kingdom of God.