



RENDER

Matthew 22:15-22

Bible study for the week starting July 2, 2023

SHARE

I asked the question recently: If you couldn't live in the United States of America, in what country would you choose to live, and why? What is it that is good – and worth celebrating – about living in the U.S.?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read **1 Samuel 8:4-22**. No earthly government is perfect or holy; just look at this description of what the Israelites were in for when they wanted a king. We don't have a king in this country, but how do these descriptions resonate with what we give up as citizens of an earthly kingdom (the U.S.) in addition to a heavenly kingdom?
2. Read **Romans 13:1-7**. As it turns out, there haven't been a lot of warm, fuzzy empires over the past 2,000-6,000 years; clearly, not all are friendly or conducive to the free exercise of our Christian faith (Rome certainly wasn't). How do we operate under these responsibilities and restrictions? Why do you think it is that Christianity often grows the most under the most oppressive regimes?
3. Read **Matthew 22:15-22**. Jesus – King of Kings and Lord of Lords – was certainly beholden to no government, let alone Caesar; yet, Jesus instructed those who were trying to trap Him in His words to “render to Caesar.” What does it mean to “render?” What do we “render” as Bakersfieldians, Californians, and Americans?
4. The second part – and reason for this sermon – of what Jesus said was, “Render to God what is God's?” What is God's, and how does that impact how we function in this world? We have different vocations; how would you rate yourself in your vocation as citizen, and how would you rate yourself in your vocation as Christian?

PRAY

Pray together for our nation and our leaders, giving thanks to God for His blessings, repenting of our flaws, and asking for His guidance, grace and providence.



Render this!

1 Samuel 8:4-22; Romans 13:1-7; Matthew 22:15-22

July 2, 2023 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

The front line for the **BATTLE**

- Mt. Carmel
- Caesarea Philippi
- Mt. Moriah

KINGS and **NATIONS** come and go

Earthly **AUTHORITY**: you asked for it! (1 Samuel 8:11-18)

In **GOD** we trust.

RENDER = to pay what is due

- **TRUST**/faith (Matthew 10:28)
- **THANKSGIVING**
- “**CALL** on the name of the Lord” (Genesis 4:26); **WORSHIP** the Lord your God and **SERVE** Him only (Luke 4:8).

The #1 holy place (and front line for battle) on this earth is *your* **HEART**.

For next week, read Matthew 4:18-25.