

THY KINGDOM COME #30
Developing a Biblical Worldview

Introduction

We are “Developing A Biblical Worldview”; learning how to look at all of life through the lens of scripture, including the how we see the current condition of our country.

The Bad News Is...

The last election confirms 2 things: 1, the overall moral/spiritual condition of our country is continuing to decline and 2, that many of our fellow-Americans are quite willing to continue to support the oppressive policies that are systematically taking away our freedom.

The Good News Is...

God has given His people the power to prevail because He has limited all civil governments and political systems so that they can have no power apart from...

Discourse on Voluntary Servitude
“The Consent of the Governed”

Wikipedia

In political philosophy, the phrase ‘consent of the governed’ refers to the idea that a government’s legitimacy and moral right to use state power is justified and lawful only when consented to by the people or society over which that political power is exercised.

This simply means that, as the French poet stated it 500 years ago...

Etienne de La Boetie

(If) People are not free ultimately (it is) because they voluntarily submit to their own servitude.

This is what happened 2000 years ago when Israel chose to serve Caesar instead of their Messiah...

John 19:15-16

Then Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

Like Israel of old, most Americans have rejected Christ and the Law of God in favor of submission to tyrants who will take away their freedom. The result, in the famous words of Founding father Thomas Jefferson...

Thomas Jefferson

The government you elect is the government you deserve.

Etienne de La Boetie

We get exactly the rulers that the majority of the people think legitimate. And if you want to change the world, you have to change most people's ideas about what is legitimate.

I have 3 points tonight:

**ALL CIVIL GOVERNMENTS DERIVE THEIR POWER FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED (WHETHER DICTATORSHIPS OR DEMOCRACIES)
TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENTS USE EVIL MEANS TO OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED (3)
GOOD PEOPLE OVERCOME TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENT BY WITHDRAWING THEIR CONSENT**

II. The Consent of the Governed

A. ALL CIVIL GOVERNMENTS DERIVE THEIR POWER FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

1. Our founding fathers included the 'consent of the governed' in the Declaration of Independence, connecting it with our God-given rights.

Declaration of Independence, 1776

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal...
endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. Among these are life,
liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

a. Notice: our equality and rights are from God, not from government!

Declaration of Independence

That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, *deriving
their just powers from the consent of the governed...*

President Calvin Coolidge

If all men are created equal, that is final; if they are endowed with inalienable
rights, that is final; if governments derive their just powers from the consent of
the governed, that is final. No advance, no progress can be made beyond these
propositions.

Robert H. Jackson, Associate Supreme Court Justice, 1941-1954

We set up government by the consent of the governed, and the Bill of Rights
denies those in power any legal opportunity to coerce that consent. Authority
here is to be controlled by public opinion, not public opinion by authority. One's
right to life, liberty, and property depends on the outcome of no election.

Jason W. Hoyt, "Consent of the Governed"

It is important to remember this key point: Everything the government does to
you is by your consent. You either explicitly gave them consent, or by your
silence, they assumed your consent.

B. TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENTS USE EVIL MEANS TO OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

- **Tyrants obtain the consent of the Governed by Deception**
- **Tyrants maintain consent by Distraction**
- **Tyrants seek to perpetuate consent and control the future by Re-
Education, training up a generation accustomed to their own servitude**

#1. Tyrants (in Democracies) Obtain Consent Through Deception

Etienne de La Boétie

Tyranny can only be imposed by conquest or deception.

The deception sometimes occurs in cases where the people, during emergencies, will select certain persons as dictators, thus providing occasion of those individuals to fasten their power permanently upon the public.

a. Tyrants used the COVID crisis emergency to expand government power in ways we'd never seen before; elevating evil men like so-called 'expert' Dr. Anthony Fauci into dictator status, with the power to shut down churches, businesses and our schools, which we now know has crippled the educational progress of an entire generation of young Americans.

b. The tyrants used the COVID crisis to deceive us into consenting to give more power to the government...

Etienne de La Boétie

Once begun, however, the maintenance of tyranny is permitted and bolstered by the insidious throes of habit, whereby the people quickly become accustomed to enslavement.

c. Millions of Americans underwent a major mindset in 2020; they became so accustomed to giving their consent to the government over their everyday lives they never stopped to analyze how it happened. The government used deception to gain the consent of the governed.

Dresden James

When a well-packaged web of lies has been sold gradually to the masses, the truth will seem utterly preposterous, and its speaker will seem like a raving lunatic.

d. We now know that the government created a "well-packaged web of lies" and then targeted any voices that contradicted the narrative.

e. The point is that tyrants obtain the consent of the people by deception

#2. Tyrants Maintain the Consent of the Governed By Means of Distraction

a. Tyrannical politicians hide their real agenda behind a façade that presents themselves as our saviors.

Etienne de La Boetie, “The Discourse on Voluntary Servitude”

It has always happened that tyrants, in order to strengthen their power, have made every effort to train their people not only in obedience and servility toward themselves, but also in adoration.

b. Tyrants want us to see them as our saviors as a distraction and cover for the control they really seek.

Gary DeMar

Politicians pick up on the people’s desire for security and dependency and use it for political gain.

c. The greatest evidence of America’s moral decline are the recent elections where those who promise the most free stuff get the votes; they knowingly promise more than they can deliver because...

Steve Gallagher

In large part, human beings are willing to believe anything, as long as it caters to what they want.

d. History tells how tyrants use distractions to maintain the consent of the people by means of ‘bread and circuses’.

Bread and Circuses

Something offered as an expedient means of pacifying discontent or diverting attention from a source of grievance.

e. This comes from the days when the Roman government kept the consent of the people by distributing free food and staging huge spectacles.

f. The phrase originated with Roman poet known as Juvenal, complaining about the decline of morality in the people or Rome, and how easily manipulated:

Juvenal, Roman poet, circa 100 A.D.

**The people anxiously require only two things—bread and circuses.
Give them bread and circuses and they will never revolt.**

g. The famous Roman orator Marcus Tullius Cicero commented:

Marcus Tullius Cicero

The evil was not in the bread and circuses, per se; but in the willingness of the people to sell their rights as free men for full bellies and the excitement of the games which would serve to distract them from the other human hungers which bread and circuses can never appease.

h. The tyrannical Roman government distracted the people with free food and entertainment to the point they consented to sell their souls and surrender their freedom; 2,000 years later, this is how George Orwell described the moral condition of the people under the eye of 'Big Brother' government in his novel, "1984".

George Orwell, "1984"

**Football, beer, and above all, gambling filled up the horizon of their minds.
To keep them in control was not difficult.**

Orwell used Adolf Hitler as a prototype of how tyrannical governments maintain the consent of the people by appealing to their selfish interests.

George Orwell on Hitler

Hitler grasped the falsity of the hedonistic attitude to life. Nearly all western thought since the last war has assumed that human beings desire nothing beyond ease, security, and the avoidance of pain.

i. When Neil Postman's classic book, "Amusing Ourselves To Death" came out in 1985, critics called it 'a 21st century book published in the 20th century'. One reviewer said:

"Amusing Ourselves to Death" is a prophetic look at what happens when politics, journalism, education, and even religion become subject to the demands of entertainment.

j. Postman foresaw a day when politicians would employ TV and technology as 'bread and circuses' to entertain people to the point where they no longer notice that their freedom was being destroyed.

Neil Postman, "Amusing Ourselves To Death"

The purpose of bread and circuses is to distract, to divert emotional energy toward the absurd and the trivial and the spectacle, while you are ruthlessly stripped of your power.

(The famous feminist Camille Paglia hated Postman's book in 1985; but later said)

Camille Paglia

Time has proved Postman right. He accurately foresaw that the young would inherit a frantically all-consuming media culture of glitz, gossip, and greed.

j. I see bread and circus distractions today in the younger generations that can't keep their heads out of their cell phones and video games while their very freedoms and futures are being stripped away from them by ruthless tyrants bent on enslaving them.

A 2019 poll revealed that socialism is booming in popularity among America's young people. The survey showed that nearly three-quarters of young Americans are likely to vote for a socialist candidate, while about one-in-five support abolishing private property.

k. Socialism sounds great to young people who don't even know what it is; they think it's all about 'free stuff'; did no one ever tell them...

Frank Viola, "Insurgence: Reclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom"

Socialism is where everything is free...except you.

l. The distraction of tyrants using bread and circus distractions to seduce the people into giving away their freedom began in Rome but it has always been with us.

Benjamin Constant, Swiss Novelist 1819

The danger for modern liberty is that we, absorbed in the enjoyment of our private independence and the pursuit of our particular interests, might surrender too easily our right to share in political power.

Benjamin Constant

The holders of authority encourage us to do just that. They are so ready to spare us every sort of trouble except the trouble of obeying and paying!

Review:

Tyrants obtain the consent of the governed by deception

They maintain the consent of the governed by distraction

Finally...

#3. Tyrants *perpetuate* the consent of the governed by re-education.

President Ronald Reagan

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it along to our children in their bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

- a. Parents in our homes and Pastors in our churches have failed to do this.
- b. Instead of educating this generation in the principles of freedom and a biblical worldview, we've allowed them to be re-educated by a secular system that seeks to enslave them.

Francis Schaeffer

As the memory of the Christian consensus which gave us freedom within the biblical form increasingly is forgotten, a manipulating authoritarianism will tend to fill the vacuum.

- b. This prophecy has been fulfilled. The memory of the 'Christian consensus' is increasingly forgotten. The failure of parents and pastors to perpetuate a biblical worldview has left a vacuum being filled by secular worldview perpetuated by the public school system.

Chris Salcedo

The greatest mistake America ever made was to allow the government to educate our children.

c. The result is that we now have a generation of American culture complicit in its own subjection with predictable results as described by de La Boetie:

(1) Forgetful of real freedom with no desire to regain it

Etienne de La Boetie

It is incredible how soon as soon as a people become subject, it promptly falls into such complete forgetfulness of its freedom that it can hardly be roused to the point of regaining it, obeying so easily and willingly that one is led to say that this people has not so much lost its liberty as won its enslavement.

(2) Accustomed to servility and cowardly submission

Etienne de La Boétie

The essential reason why men take orders willingly is that they are born serfs and are reared as such. From this cause follows another result; that people become cowardly and submissive under tyrants. It is evident that once liberty is lost, valor also perishes.

(3) No stomach for a fight

Etienne de La Boétie

A subjected people show neither gladness nor eagerness in combat; they do not feel throbbing within them that eagerness for liberty which produces a scorn for peril.

Etienne de La Botie

An enslaved people loses warlike courage and all signs of enthusiasm, for their hearts are degraded, submissive, and incapable of any great deeds. Tyrants are well aware of this, and in order to degrade their subjects further, encourage them to assume this attitude and make it instinctive.

Review

**All governments drive their power from the consent of the governed
Tyrants obtain the consent of the governed by deception
They maintain the consent of the governed by distraction
#3. Tyrants *perpetuate* the consent of the governed by re-education.**

III. Close: So What Can We Do?

A. We Need A Short/Term Long-Term Perspective

1. The long-term fix is evangelism and discipleship!

Gary DeMar

Ultimately, for a nation, it's going to come down to the majority of people embracing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

But at this point, right now, our interest must involve politics is because the civil government has become so tyrannical we must say, "It's enough! We've got to stop the tyranny" before we are not even permitted to go and preach the Gospel anymore anywhere.

2. The long-term solution spiritual awakening; the short-term solution is simple; since the power of government comes from the consent of the governed, we the governed must withdraw our consent.

3. God has given us the power to consent as to what governs us.

Romans 6:16

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

4. If sin cannot govern us without our consent, how much less need we submit to earthly powers?

Closing Prayer

Title

Communion

“Do this in remembrance of Me...”