

Christopublicrats - The Politics of God

Jeremiah 29:1-7; Romans 13:1-7; Philippians 2:4-11; Matthew 22:15-22

Billy Joel was in between record companies, moonlighting at a piano bar when he wrote "*Piano Man*" and made this observation: "...the waitress is practicing _____..."

What is "politics" exactly? Here's one definition: (ancient Greek, *politika* - "affairs of the cities") is the set of activities that are associated with making _____ in groups, or other forms of power relations among individuals, such as the distribution of status or resources.

With those lyrics, Billy Joel made the observation that "politics" is _____ and can't be avoided. Where there are people living in community and vying for resources, decisions will need to be made. When decisions need to be made there will be differing _____ that inform those decisions. That's politics.

After last week, perhaps you thought I'd encourage you to _____ completely. But God won't let us.

We live in a world built on _____: GOD's _____!

We live in a world of _____, hard wired into the universe at creation.

God has instituted _____ to be the instrument of this authority and order.

Government is not evil in and of itself. There will be government in _____!

People are _____. Therefore, paradoxically, we _____ gov't and also can't _____ gov't!

Gov't maintains order by rewarding _____, punishing _____, and keeping us from _____.

But in an evil world gov't must be _____ of what is good and what is evil. (Values!)

"But Pastor Emil, isn't God's Church all about grace, mercy, and love?!" _____ AND _____.

Yes, our _____ role is sharing the Good News of forgiveness and eternal life in Christ.

No, because that message is built on a _____ of order and authority.

Because of our _____ and God's authority, order, and justice, saving us required something specific.

Jesus lived a _____ life and earned all the commensurate _____.

Instead of collecting, he first took our _____. God still _____ him!

Jesus now _____ gives his righteousness and blessings to all who trust in him.

When Christ returns, he will establish his perfect, eternal _____! (_____!)

We will _____ with him! We start now by allowing him to rule US through our words and actions.

Almost everything he commands us to say and do is _____. Consider the phrase, "Jesus is _____."

He is Lord over all gov'ts, our thoughts, bodies, sexuality, money, children, families, justice system and MORE!

Does that mean we just give _____ in every situation no matter what? Does that mean we never hold anyone accountable? Congregations don't run very well like that, and I certainly don't want to see a world run like that!

If we love our family and community and our neighbor as ourselves, we will let God's Word speak TO us and THROUGH us to a world that is mired in _____ and _____.

If we don't, chaos will only _____. What's worse is people won't see God's good and gracious will. Nor will they see how far they are from it and how desperately they need a _____.

How is God showing you a need to let His Word speak TO you?

How is God showing you He wants you to let His Word speak THROUGH you?

What are you going to DO about it?