



**Decision Time
Practical Guides for Life Today
Church vs. State
1 Peter 2:13-25
Part 1**

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Here at Calvary Chapel, we hold a rather uncompromising view of scripture. Our statement of faith says the following:



We believe that all the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, fully inspired by Him and without error in the original manuscripts. We believe the Scriptures as assembled in the Bible to be the basis on which this church is governed and the standard of her faith and practice and that of every believer. We believe the word of God is living and active and able to divide soul and spirit and judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. We believe that the Word of God supersedes any earthly law that is contrary to the Holy Scriptures. We believe Jesus Christ to be the Living Word and the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. (Isaiah 28:13; Nehemiah 8:8; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3-4 and 1:21; John 1:1; Matthew 5:17). (Calvary Chapel Martin County 2023)

I want us to understand up front what our view of scripture is since we are going to be discussing decision making. To make good decisions, we must know what the scriptures tell us.

The reason for this is simple, the culture, the world is working overtime in these last days to squeeze us into its mold. It has never been politically correct to be a serious follower of Jesus Christ, in the past we were tolerated and occasionally lifted as an example, but those days are gone.

Even while I was in the Air Force, there were actions underway to make it illegal for a commander to have a Bible on their desk. That attempt went nowhere, but that was then.

The attempts to remove Christianity from the marketplace has never ended and Satan has doubled down on his attempts to marginalize and make the church of Jesus Christ ineffective.

I want to see that we are all equipped to make Biblically based decisions as it pertains to the culture and to our government in these last days. The lies are legion. "I believe it's the responsibility of the church to equip its members to withstand the heavy arm of the state and be obedient to God alone, despite the consequences. We can take heart. The people of God have encountered this encroachment before; in fact, throughout most of the church's history, believers have always had to choose between God and Caesar. The early church never prayed that they would be exempt from persecution, but they did pray for boldness to stand for Christ and endurance when persecution came." (Lutzer, The Church in Babylon: Heeding the Call to Be a Light in the Darkness 2018, 104)

Has the state become heavy handed these days, in some locations in this country, yes. Once again, we should be praying for boldness to stand for Him, and yes, endurance as well.

As it involves interactions between the church and the state. The issue became highly visible during the pandemic that the goal of the state has never really changed since the days of the Roman Empire. The state has always seen the church as a challenge to its authority and desires to eliminate the church. Even here in Florida, where the state never leaned on the church and never forbid us gathering together, various counties and a few cities thought they could impose unconstitutional restrictions on the church to prevent us from meeting. But it was discovered that the state law they thought they were reading correctly, they were not, and they had to back off.

That was not the case in every state though and there were those who pointed to the Bible for their authority.

Arguments arose during the pandemic between well-meaning folks about the meanings behind Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2:13-25. The only problem though, is one group did not insist on taking a truly Biblical view of the entire scripture, but instead picked around only what they wanted and of course, totally ignored what the Bible has consistently taught, even in the Old Testament, as well as the history of the church for the past 2,000 years in the process.



This argument came up because of the manner in which some churches and believers held scripture. This became a battle of competing worldviews.

Elijah confronted the evil that was King Ahab and Queen Jezebel in the Northern Kingdom. He did not follow the edicts of the government and after battling the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, ran to Saudi Arabia believing there was no one left other than him, serving in Israel. But God told him “I still have left in Israel 7,000 followers who have not bowed their knees to Baal or kissed the images of him.” (1 Kings 19:18, NET 2nd ed.)

Everyone is not doing it. There has been and always will be a remnant that remains faithful to the Lord. Even in these last days, as dark as they may seem, He is doing a work and still saving those who will believe.

But there is a large group today who say they are Christians, but they aren't. Satan has lied to them, and they have bought the lie.

*On one side are those with what we call a Syncretic Worldview and on the other, those with a Biblical Worldview. Here, per the latest data from the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University is what we see. “**The overwhelming majority of American adults—92%—embrace a worldview known as Syncretism – a fusion of disparate ideologies, beliefs, behaviors, and principles culled from a variety of competing worldviews into a customized blend.***

Biblical Theism (aka the biblical worldview) was a distant second in popularity, with a 4% incidence.

Next were four philosophies of life that are each embraced by 1% of the adult population: Mormonism, Secular Humanism, Nihilism, and Postmodernism.

The other eight worldviews measured each generated a less than one-half of one percent incidence. Those worldviews included Eastern Mysticism, Marxism, Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, Judaism, Islam, Satanism, Wicca, and Animism.” (Barna 2024)

We insist, here at Calvary, on a strong uncompromising view of scripture. “There are two reasons in our day for holding a strong, uncompromising view of Scripture. First, and foremost, this is the only way to be faithful to what the Bible teaches about itself and what Christ teaches about Scripture. This should be reason enough in itself. But today there is a second reason why we should hold a strong uncompromising view of Scripture. There may be hard days ahead of us—for ourselves and for our spiritual and our physical children. And without a strong view of Scripture as a foundation, we will not be ready for the hard days to come. **Christianity is no longer providing the consensus for our society. And Christianity is no longer providing the consensus upon which our law is based. We are in a time when humanism is coming to its natural conclusions in morals, in values, and in law. All that society has today are relative values based upon statistical averages.** Soft days for evangelical Christians are past, and only a strong view of Scripture is sufficient to withstand the pressure of an all-pervasive culture built upon relativistic thinking. We must remember that it was a strong view of the absolutes which the infinite-personal God had given in the Old Testament, the revelation in Christ, and the then growing New Testament which enabled the early Church to withstand the pressure of the Roman Empire.” (Schaeffer 1982, 143-144)

We were told, by Francis Schaeffer in 1979, what was coming. He was incredibly prophetic, and this is now where we are currently living. Let's look at our text in 1 Peter.

1 Peter 2:13–25



“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people. Act as free people, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond-servants of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are harsh. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person endures grief when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? **But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps, HE WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT found IN HIS MOUTH;** and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.” (NASB 2020)

That first phrase, “submit yourself for the Lord’s sake to every human institution” is not an unconditional free pass for government on this planet. Remember who is saying this, Peter. And also remember who the emperor was, Nero. Persecution of Christians was rapidly becoming a thing in the Empire.

This was becoming an issue of concern for many in the church and there were voices on both sides of the issue of whether to do as government said, or not.

Some Christians submitted to the relentless pressure and complied with the requirements—by performing the pagan sacrifices. But others refused. To the Romans, this refusal signified a failure of allegiance; persecution and punishment predictably followed. (Smith 2018, 142)

We are not the first to have to deal with this. It was a real issue that Peter was writing about, and he was not the first to deal with the topic either. Years earlier, Paul also wrote on the topic in his letter to the Romans. And they both build on what Jesus taught about it.

There was a question, when posed to Him in Matthew 22:16 by members of the Sanhedrin, that was not a question about Roman law. As far as Roman law was concerned, the tax the question was about was lawful. But the question was for those who were the people of God. What is the right thing to do per the Torah?

Matthew 22:17–22

“Tell us, then, what do you think? Is it against our Law to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, or not?” Jesus, however, was aware of their evil plan, and so he said, “You hypocrites! Why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin for paying the tax!” They brought him the coin, and he asked them, “Whose face and name are these?” “The Emperor’s,” they answered. So Jesus said to them, “Well, then, pay the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor, and pay God what belongs to God.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.” (GNB)

The way Jesus answered was unexpected.

The first argument that the Sanhedrin would have used to the tax was that it was to be paid to a ruler who intentionally placed his image on a coin in violation of the second commandment. That was bad, but on the coin, “an inscription which described the Roman emperor as Divi Filius, son of a god (in contravention of the first commandment, Exod 20:3). Roman imperial policy, aware of this sensitivity, allowed the Jews



to coin their own non-idolatrous copper money, which sufficed for normal everyday business; there was therefore no need for them to carry the silver denarius, a coin of higher value.” (France 2007, 830)

Why then did they have this coin in the Temple?

The tax is thus presented not as an arbitrary imposition but as a due payment for the benefits received from the imperial government, which they have acknowledged by using the imperial currency. To Jews smarting under Roman occupation this must have seemed an extraordinary idea; it is certainly not one which a Zealot could have voiced...That ideology needs to be worked out practically for any given situation, and there will be circumstances in which the complementary claims of God and the emperor are not so easily compatible, but Jesus does not allow us to assume that the two are inevitably in conflict. (France 2007, 834)

But this was counter to what the conventional wisdom was in Judea at the time. Many times, though, it is not nearly as straight forward as we might think.

In the Roman Empire of Peter and Paul’s day, for anyone engaging in business, “as a prerequisite to engaging in any commercial transaction they had to give specific divine honours to the Caesar. Without doing so they would not have been able to secure provisions for their daily needs, as all goods could only be bought or sold through the authorised markets in a first-century city. Officials controlled these markets and were also responsible for the collection of taxes levied on the sale of every commodity. All were required to have ‘the name’ of ‘the beast’ inked on their right hand or forehead, after which they were to worship the statue of the emperor in the imperial cult temple also located in the city centre. Then, and only then, could they sell or purchase essential commodities. The implications for those who did not comply were extremely serious. (Winter 2015, 286)

Penalties for non-compliance included exile or summary execution.

As I said earlier, Paul also touched this topic.

Romans 13:1–7

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by God’s appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by God. So the person who resists such authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will incur judgment (for rulers cause no fear for good conduct but for bad). Do you desire not to fear authority? Do good and you will receive its commendation because it is God’s servant for your well-being. But be afraid if you do wrong because government does not bear the sword for nothing. **It is God’s servant to administer punishment on the person who does wrong.** Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath of the authorities but also because of your conscience. For this reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants devoted to governing. Pay everyone what is owed: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.” (NET 2nd ed.)

It is recognised that all Christians were required to give appropriate imperial honours but only within the parameters of their faith, as Paul outlined in Romans 13:1–7. **Paul defines the Caesar as God’s servant (δῆρακος) and his minister (λειτουργός) (13:4, 6) but certainly not as a man who, upon becoming Caesar, was ‘a god’, ‘a son of a god’, ‘god manifest’, ‘saviour of the world’, and ‘the great high priest’ of all his empire and to be thus venerated.** His instructions to render to each their obligation was to pay taxes, honours that resonated with Jesus’ edict to give appropriate honours to Caesar but never to compromise in any way by giving them divine honours that alone were due to God (Mark 12:17). (Winter 2015, 18-19)

Again, if we fully understand what is being taught, none of this is a blank pass for government.



Jesus specified respect for those functions of the government that it is best suited to do, but to worship God, not Caesar. That, as an idea, had just started with Jesus as He stated it in Matthew 22, but really grew as a way of life at the same time the church was growing.

Paul made clear we are to be subject to the governing authorities, but we are not to worship them as God. Or anything else for that matter.

Running along with the culture may, at times, look like it is a good idea to avoid conflict, but where is the culture headed to? What is it they are supporting? What is it, by giving your tacit approval to what the culture is supporting, are you also approving too? If we only stop at Romans 13:7, without the additional teaching from Jesus and from Peter, then we may think that we should always follow the government and follow orders. That is a slippery slope towards moral relativism.

Moral relativism emphasizes that an act's rightness depends on culture or circumstances: "When in Rome, do as the Romans," the saying goes. A common slogan we hear today is, "That may be right for you, but not for me." So can we really criticize Nazi concentration camp guards who were "just following orders"? (McQuilkin and Copan 2014, 171)

To avoid that trap, one which Satan meticulously framed and then spring during the pandemic, we must also go back to Romans 13 again because as you continue in the chapter, Paul tells us the reasons why we need to be following a Biblical standard and not one friendly to the world.

A friendly world standard starts off with love is love and provides a cultural acceptance and approval of what the Bible teaches is a sinful lifestyle. Our culture says that we are haters and behind the times if we insist on following the Bible. And in some states, the state has sided with the culture. For us, this is not new. It was in Corinth too.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

"Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. **Some of you were once like that.** But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (NLT)

There were those in Corinth that, before coming to Jesus, had been deeply involved in all that the culture and the state had to offer. This included the some in the church, now saved, being involved and saved from the same lifestyles we see the culture approving today.

For us to follow Jesus as His followers, yes, the Bible does say to submit to the state. But our primary obedience is to the Lord.

1. God
2. State

When faced with obedience to either the state or Jesus, we must always choose Jesus. (Lutzer, *The Church in Babylon: Heeding the Call to Be a Light in the Darkness* 2018, 113)

In 2009, some Christian leaders signed a document called the Manhattan Declaration: A Call of Christian Conscience. Part of it reads: "We will not...bend to any rule purporting to force us to bless immoral sexual partnerships, treat them as marriages or the equivalent, or refrain from proclaiming the truth, as we know it, about morality and immorality and marriage and the family. We will fully and ungrudgingly render to



Caesar what is Caesar's. **But under no circumstances will we render to Caesar what is God's.**
(George, George and Colson 2009)

Again, why is this important to us today? Because we are on the cusp, I believe, of the world trying, once again, to take over the church and force us to conform with the world. It begins with dictating when we can meet, like in 2020, but will include prohibitions to teach certain topics because they will be redefined as hate speech. Paul outlines why.

Romans 13:1-7

From Paul:

- Submit to the governing authorities.
 - Paul does not say “obey.”
 - Recognize the hierarchy of authority.
 - God is the ultimate authority.
 - The state has authority only because of permission from God.
- If you resist authority, you resist God.
 - But God is still the ultimate authority.
 - Submission is recognition of the hierarchy established by God.
 - Refusal to do so is rebellion, see Genesis 3.
 - Judgement on those who rebel implies the ruler acting on behalf of God.
- Those rulers God has appointed maintain order in society on His behalf.
 - Punishment to lawbreakers.
 - Reward those who follow well.
 - Rulers are carrying out God's purposes in the world.
- The state has the right to punish those who violate the laws of the state that are in agreement with what is taught in the word of God.
- The state punishes evil as a representative of God.
- We are to submit “for the sake of conscience.”

Just as Jesus in His instructions did not give the state a free pass, Peter did not and neither does Paul.

On top of this, we must be totally conversant with what the scriptures teach to prevent us from looking at this and saying it is a pass and we must always obey the government, even if they are Nazi's and they want to destroy all the Jews on the planet. Again, a Biblical worldview and Biblical literacy comes to the forefront.

Acts 5:27–29

“When they had brought them, they stood them before the council, and the high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name. Look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood on us!” But Peter and the apostles replied, “**We must obey God rather than people.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Looking back at our text in 1 Peter, knowing that it is Peter who told the Sanhedrin what his understanding of the principle outlined by Jesus was, we see the same as we see with Paul.

1 Peter 2:13–17

“Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people. Act as free people, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond-servants of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.” (NASB 2020)



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 - Judgement on those who rebel implies the ruler acting on behalf of God.

This is coming to us from the same Peter who made the statement we have already read in Acts 5:29. It is also the same Peter who gives us Acts 4:19.

Acts 4:19–20

“But Peter and John answered them, **“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”**” (ESV)

The motivation for obedience is not avoiding punishment but is for the Lord’s sake. To honor God who ordained human government, Christians are to observe man-made laws carefully as long as those laws do not conflict with the clear teaching of Scripture (cf. Acts 4:19). (Raymer 1985, 847)

This, to a Jew, should be well known as this was something their ancestors faced after Solomon died and the Kingdom split into two.

The new King in Jerusalem, Jeroboam, was foolish and Rehoboam wound up becoming King of the 10 tribes in the north, Israel. Jeroboam remained King over Judah and Benjamin. That was bad, but the Lord had shown through a prophet it was the result of Solomon’s sin.

But Rehoboam, being a new ruler trying to consolidate power, did what many would do, he tried to create new legal ways to prevent his people from going back to where they always worshipped, Jerusalem.

The King of Israel established his own system of worship, in violation of the Torah. He built two locations, one in Dan and the other in Bethel, set up a golden calf in each, then created his own priesthood from non-Levites. This meant, for those who followed YAHWEH, that a decision was necessary. Remain in Israel and do what the state wants, continue following God and worship in Jerusalem at peril of death, or move to Judah.

We see the decision in 2 Chronicles.

2 Chronicles 11:13–16

“And the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel presented themselves to him from all places where they lived. For the Levites left their common lands and their holdings and came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons cast them out from serving as priests of the LORD, and he appointed his own priests for the high places and for the goat idols and for the calves that he had made. And those who had set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came after them from all the tribes of Israel to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD, the God of their fathers.” (ESV)



So, what does all of this mean for us living in the 21st century and trying to make our way through the moral and legal quagmire we see around us today? We are to submit to the state, unless the requirements of the state cross the clear red line of the scriptures.

That sounds simple enough, but it requires us to have a clear unbiased view of the scriptures and be reliant on the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction.

We are in a war with the enemy. He lies, all the time. He redefines the terms that we are used to using and suddenly what we thought we knew we no longer do, because it is now carrying a different meaning. How is that fair? It isn't. It is disinformation and is common in warfare. I was a major purveyor of it while serving in Kuwait. Let's just say, smoke and mirrors work really well in the desert. Why would we expect Satan to not do the same.

We are resident aliens on this planet. We no longer think like or make decisions like the rest of the world. They make the rules they want us to follow.

The fact that Christians enter every conversation as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who are bound by biblical revelation means they cannot begin without breaking the new rules. And we must remember those who break the rules are not welcome by those who make the rules. (Mohler Jr. 2020, 12)

Those rules include redefinitions of almost everything. We are seeing the warnings of Isaiah 5 ignored and now becoming how life is done in our culture.

Isaiah 5:20–21

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!” (ESV)

In 2021, Bethany Christian Services, a foster and adoption agency, at the time, the country's largest Protestant agency, surrendered to the culture and to the state. They based their decision, on a survey rather than on the word of God.

The results of the survey “found that 76 percent of self-identified Christians agree, at least somewhat, that it would be better for Christian agencies to comply with government requirements pertaining to the LGBTQ community rather than shut down.” (Shimron 2021)

““Faith in Jesus is at the core of our mission,” they said. “But we are not claiming a position on the various doctrinal issues about which Christians may disagree.”

But same-sex marriage is not one of those doctrines over which Christians lack clarity; homosexual relationships are condemned in both the Old and New Testaments. For 2,000 years of church history, this has never been in dispute.” (Lutzer and Charles Jr., No Reason to Hide: Standing for Christ in a Collapsing Culture 2022, 169)

What changed was an inability to clearly think through the circumstances and remain loyal to the word of God. The culture is redefining what it means to be a parent and a family, and this organization decided to go with the flow.

Because of this redefinition activity, becoming grounded in the word is rapidly becoming a priority. Our standard is the Bible. Jesus has personally given us the tools we need to make the right decision every time. You don't need a board to tell you the politically correct decision, we have the Holy Spirit.

John 8:31–32



“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”” (ESV)

Jesus did not stop there; He then tells us about the tools given to assist us to make decisions.

John 14:16–17

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (ESV)

As believers, we already know He is truth and if we abide in His word, we will know the truth. On top of that, He then promises to have God, the Holy Spirit, live inside each of us. He is the Spirit of Truth. But He is not done yet. He knows about the struggle we have today with decisions. He knows the state and the culture will redefine everything and work overtime to make us all look foolish.

Yes, we have His truth, yes, we have the Spirit of truth in us. How do I apply this then to make decisions?

John 14:26–27

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**” (ESV)

Simple, the Holy Spirit will teach us all things. You find yourself confronting an issue, you need to make a decision. Pray first. Let Him know what it is you are dealing with and ask Him to show you and lead you to the applicable scriptures.

He promises us that as we lean on Him and trust Him for the decision, He will give us the peace we need moving forward.

It is uncomfortable to go against the culture. It is uncomfortable to say no to governmental authority but there are times coming where we might have to do so.

Further into Romans 13, Paul made clear the reason why we must be obedient and aware of all that this entails.

Romans 13:11–14

“And **do this because we know the time, that it is already the hour for us to awake from sleep, for our salvation is now nearer than when we became believers.** The night has advanced toward dawn; the day is near. So then we must **lay aside the works of darkness, and put on the weapons of light.** Let us live decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in discord and jealousy. Instead, **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to arouse its desires.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

We are living in the last days and Paul made the case even as he wrote to the church in Rome. As we look to Him for wisdom and make decisions in the light of scripture, we continue to pray for those who are in authority over us and that they would make good decisions.

Jesus is about to enter into history and begin a chain of events that the scriptures speak about. As Paul says. The “night is almost gone, and the day is near.” That was 2,000 years ago, so how much closer are we now?



The stage is being set for a one world government.

Just this past week one of the leaders, Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Liberman in Israel said this. "We must understand that Iran is planning an all-out attack within two years, where their entire axis working against Israel," he said at the time. "A credible and severe attack from Iran itself, from Lebanon by Hezbollah, from Gaza by Hamas, from Syria by Sh'ite militias, from Iraq and its [Iran-backed] militias, and from the Houthis in Yemen. Of course, they will also try to spark something in the West Bank." (Maariv Online 2024)

Ezekiel 38 and the Gog Magog War anyone?

Coming soon, under the Beast, a unified world government where politics, economics, and religion are all controlled on a global scale by one man, the Beast.

We are called here in Romans 13, to live in the knowledge that it is all coming very soon, and to live with that all in mind. The time is indeed short.

Satan wants us to redirect our efforts from getting Jesus to everyone we can, to anything and everything else.

We are not done with this topic introduced to us by Peter. He wants us to be in fellowship with each other and obedient to Him. As we follow Him and abide in Him and His word, then we should be able to easily make good Biblical decisions. Ask Him for help since He promises to "teach us all things." All things is exactly that.

By the way, if you find yourself one of those who is sitting there wondering how we could be so ignorant of reality, we aren't. We are more in touch with reality than ever, and you can be too.

It simply involves being a Christian rather than saying you are a Christian.

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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