

## The Bad News and The Good News

Matthew 5.13-16; 1 Peter 5.6-12

Our culture is becoming increasingly hostile to the God and the church of Jesus Christ. Biblical truths are attacked in government and media. Our world is showing its ‘true colors’: It’s bad, but there’s good news, too. As salt and light, Christians point to a better way, and a better day!

Christian Civics 101: Biblical Truths for Life

- Christians hold to absolute truth in a culture without truth.
- Christians honor God as the Sovereign over all nations.
- Christians are ‘aliens’ in this world, ambassadors for Christ.
- Christians submit to civil government whenever possible.
- Christians obey God and not man when government is evil.
- Christians do good, even when suffering persecution.

The Bad News: This World is Evil and Doomed

- We are living in ‘lawless last days’ (2 Timothy 3.1-4)
- Jesus says it will get worse for His followers (Jn. 15.18-21; 6.2)
- Peter foretells this world’s final demise (2 Peter 3.10-13)

The Good News: There’s a New World Coming

- We tell people they can be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5.20)
- We are the ‘fragrance of Christ’ in the world (2 Cor 2.15-16a)
- Be ‘salt and light’: Stand firm, and share Christ!



1. The most difficult step in living our lives for God is moving from knowledge to action. We’ve unpacked biblical truth about God, culture, and governments. Now it’s time to *act*. Let’s begin with the single issue which defines evil in our culture: Abortion. We’re talking about *children*, not just *potential* children; taking human life is committing what? Since the unborn cannot speak for themselves, what is our *responsibility* to them (Prov. 31.8-9)? What can we do financially? (*Options for Life!*) Politically? (**Only** vote for someone who opposes abortion, and don’t fall for “I’m personally against abortion, but support a woman’s choice.” That’s like saying, “I’m personally against murder, but support your right to kill.”) What are other ways we can oppose abortion and defend the gift of life?
2. The advance of evil today is evidenced in increasing collaboration between government, education, business, entertainment, and the media. Public schools teach LGBTQ views in kindergarten through high school. A documentary on conservative Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is censored by Amazon, along with a book about the damaging effects of transgenderism. The federal government is seeking to pass a bill mandating LGBTQ and abortion practices. In this environment, what does it mean for a Christian to ‘obey God rather than men’ (Acts 5.29)? Think about how you will do this.
3. In the final analysis, the cultural and moral demise we see today is not political, it is spiritual. It is an effort by humans to replace God as final authority. Do you see any similarity to Babel (Gen 11.4)? We may be able to win some philosophical or political arguments, but only one thing will change *hearts* – and that is the gospel. In a post-Truth age, the only absolute solution to Satan’s evil rule is for a person to encounter the Author of Truth. We must share that *the wages of sin is death, but the Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Rom. 6.23). Without the gospel, nothing changes. With the gospel, everything changes. Who will you share the life-changing gospel with *this week*?