

## Daily Devotional, November 8, 2020

### 'Civil Disobedience and the Christian', (Romans 12:18)

***“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”***

(Romans 12:18, NKJV)

As general principle, Christians should obey the law, because the government is God's agent to maintain authority in society (Romans 13:1). Earthly governments have power that is given to them by divine allowance (John 19:11). The degree to which a human government can expect God's blessings, and be a legitimate agent of God is the degree to which that government rewards good and punishes evil (Romans 13:4). But **“woe to those who call evil good, and good evil”** (Romans 5:20).

Peaceful opposition to unbiblical concepts that arise in society is always the Christian's first and best option. **“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men”** (Romans 12:18). Civil remedies include voting and exercising the right to free speech by peaceful and lawful assembly. Legal remedies include challenging local, state, and federal authorities, and/or court rulings, by appealing to constitutional and prior case law. Even appealing to the Supreme Court as a legitimate and lawful remedy.

Religious remedies are the best method for the Christian to combat the celebration of sin in the culture. People are changed from the inside out, not the outside in. So let's participate in the Great Commission, since we have much freedom to do so (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15). There is currently no civil law in our country that restricts gospel content on our websites and in our newspapers. Nor are we prohibited from personal and public evangelism. So let's get busy! The day may come when we won't have all of these options. There are forces at work for socialism and totalitarianism. The pandemic has proven, and will probably continue to be proven, a great excuse by those in power, to limit rights and lock down businesses and individuals in increasing degrees, ostensibly always for their own good.

There are times in human history when Christians must choose to either obey a government which actively opposes divine precepts, or choose to obey God. When the Hebrew midwives were commanded to murder male Hebrew babies, they refused to do so, and are commended in the Scripture for it (Exodus 1:15-17). When Daniel's friends in Babylon were commanded to engage in idolatrous worship, the Lord Himself vindicated them (Daniel 3). When the Apostles were commanded by men to disobey the Great Commission, they rightly chose to obey God's command (Acts 5:28-29). In all three cases, faithful people of God chose to obey Him, whatever the cost may be. Let us pray that things do not come to that in our country. But if they do, be ready.