

Recap of 1/28/24 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 12:13-17):

1. *"In thinking about Scripture and its application to our lives, we need to be sure we're thinking God's truth, not our own opinions." (Bridges)*

2. *Believers are to live in subjection to earthly powers, but must above all be loyal to God's kingdom first.*

-Christians have a responsibility to the state but our ultimate loyalty is to Jesus Christ.

3. *"Christ recognized the distinction between political and spiritual responsibilities. Caesar should be given taxes and all rightful political obedience; God should be given worship, obedience; service, and dedication of one's whole life." "To serve Caesar and even fight for him, the Christian must do; to worship Caesar, he must not do." (Ryrie)*

4. *How should a Christian respond to an oppressive government? Norman Geisler*

-Pray for it 1 Timothy 2:1-4

-Preach the gospel. "We will never transform the world by mere legislation; it needs evangelization.

-Submit to its authority Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-18

-Exert moral influence upon society by being salt and light, illumination and preservation – "Work within the law."

-Work peacefully and legally to change the government and its laws (Galatians 6:10, James 4:17)

-Disobey it if it commands us to do an evil or takes the place of God. Biblical examples are Exodus 1:15-21 (Hebrew midwives; Daniel 3 ordered to worship the golden idol; Daniel 6 ordered to pray only to the King; Acts 4,5 ordered to stop preaching the gospel.

5. *Jesus is not saying that the claims of Caesar and of God are the same. There are obligations to the state which do not infringe on the rights of God. And government does have a rightful place in everyone's life and one can be in subjection to government and God at the same time.*