

BLESSED HOPE

BHBC



BIBLE CHURCH

**Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ
Based on the Word of God**

1 PETER

LIVING FOR THE
LORD IN BAD TIMES



LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN

1PETER 2:13-17



Are Christians Called to Obey

THE LAW OF THE LAND

- **THE CONTEXT:** The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response of a believer in Christ in times of suffering and difficulties.
- **THE PARADOX:** All of us will face various kinds of difficulties and problems in life, however, the problem is NOT the difficulties we face BUT how we respond to difficult situations.
- **THE PRINCIPLE:** The believer in Christ has the anticipation of a eternal inheritance that gives strength, encouragement and hope even in the most difficult times. In light of this, God wants the believer to be holy in all his conduct.

- **THE PRACTICALITY:** To be holy in all conduct includes:
 - Conducting yourself throughout the time of your stay here in fear (i.e., the fear of the Lord)
 - Loving one another fervently with a pure heart
 - Desiring the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.
 - Offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, due to the fact that we are living stones, being built up by the Living Stone as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.
 - Abstaining from fleshly lusts with conduct that is honorable among the Gentiles (unsaved).
 - Living as law-abiding citizens in the nation, regardless of that nation's political climate.

- **Lesson:** Because of what happen to us (we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ and born again of incorruptible seed), and because of what we are (we are living stones being built up as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood), **all believers are to live as responsible law-abiding citizens in the world (e.g., before the unsaved world).**
- From 1Peter 2:13-17 we will look at **three motivations** that should encourage believers to live as law-abiding citizens.

- **PROBLEM:** The idea of “**submission**” to any type of authority is an issue that is often viewed with controversy and cynicism.
 - Due to corruption
 - Due to injustice
 - Due to incompetence
 - Due to nasty political attacks and power struggles

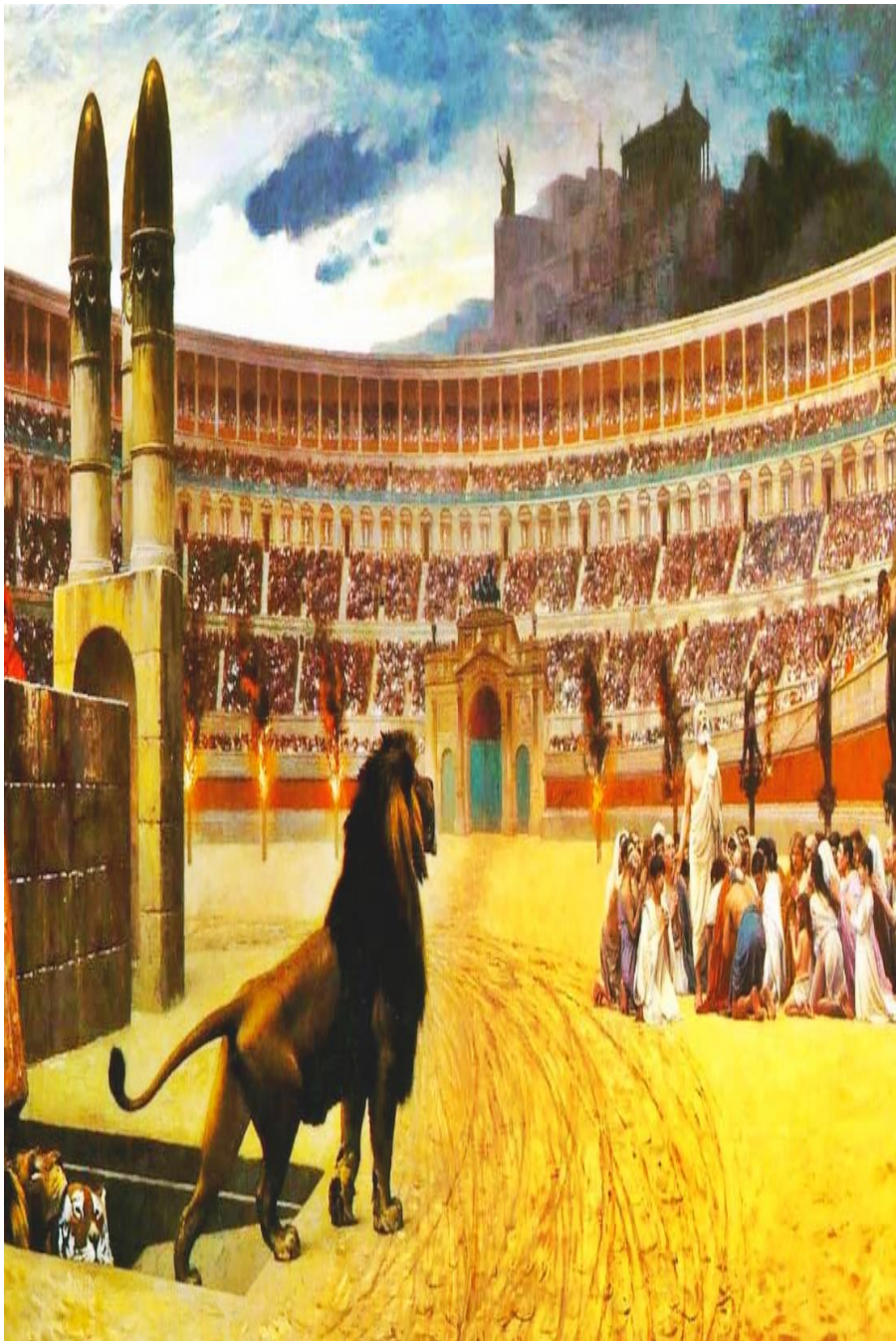




- **PRINCIPLE #1:** The believer is called by God to submit to every ordinance of man.
 - This includes any laws, rules, and policies given by those in authority.
 - This includes respect for the authority of elected officials, police, judges, courts, bosses, and even the leadership in the church.

- **PRINCIPLE #2:** All authority is delegated by God who is the absolute sovereign and supreme source of authority.
 - All authority in society is delegated by God.
 - The authorities in society who are called upon to make laws, rules and policies are doing the job that is ordained by God.
 - The laws, rules, and policies that are made by the authorities in society are meant to protect— from others and sometimes from ourselves.





- **PRINCIPLE #3:** The fact that society has delegated authority does NOT imply that society is good or godly
 - Rome was an evil government which persecuted Christians, yet Christians were never told to overthrow the state.
 - Some Christians live in freedom while others live under repressive governments, however the Christian faith has always been able to survive, live, and grow in all kinds of political systems and governments.

- **POINT:** Laws, rules, and policies exist for the protection of people, even the church (e.g., their rights and property).
 - Without them we will have anarchy in society.
 - God will deal with repressive governments
 - God did NOT call believers to anarchy!



MOTIVATION #2: THE EXPLANATION: FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD, THAT BY DOING GOOD YOU MAY PUT TO SILENCE THE IGNORANCE OF FOOLISH MEN 1 Peter 2:15-16





- **PROBLEM:** Many over zealous believer have brought dishonor to the name of Christ because they have opposed authority and violated legitimate laws, rules, and policies.
 - They've paid fines
 - They've gone to jail
 - They've lost jobs
 - They've been censored

- **PRINCIPLE #1:** Believers are NOT to give the unsaved world a legitimate excuse to charge them with violating the laws, rules, and policies of authority.
 - **Example:** A local church must follow the federal, state, and local building codes.
 - **Example:** A Christian must follow the rules of the road.
 - **Example:** A Christian must follow the policies of his/her job.



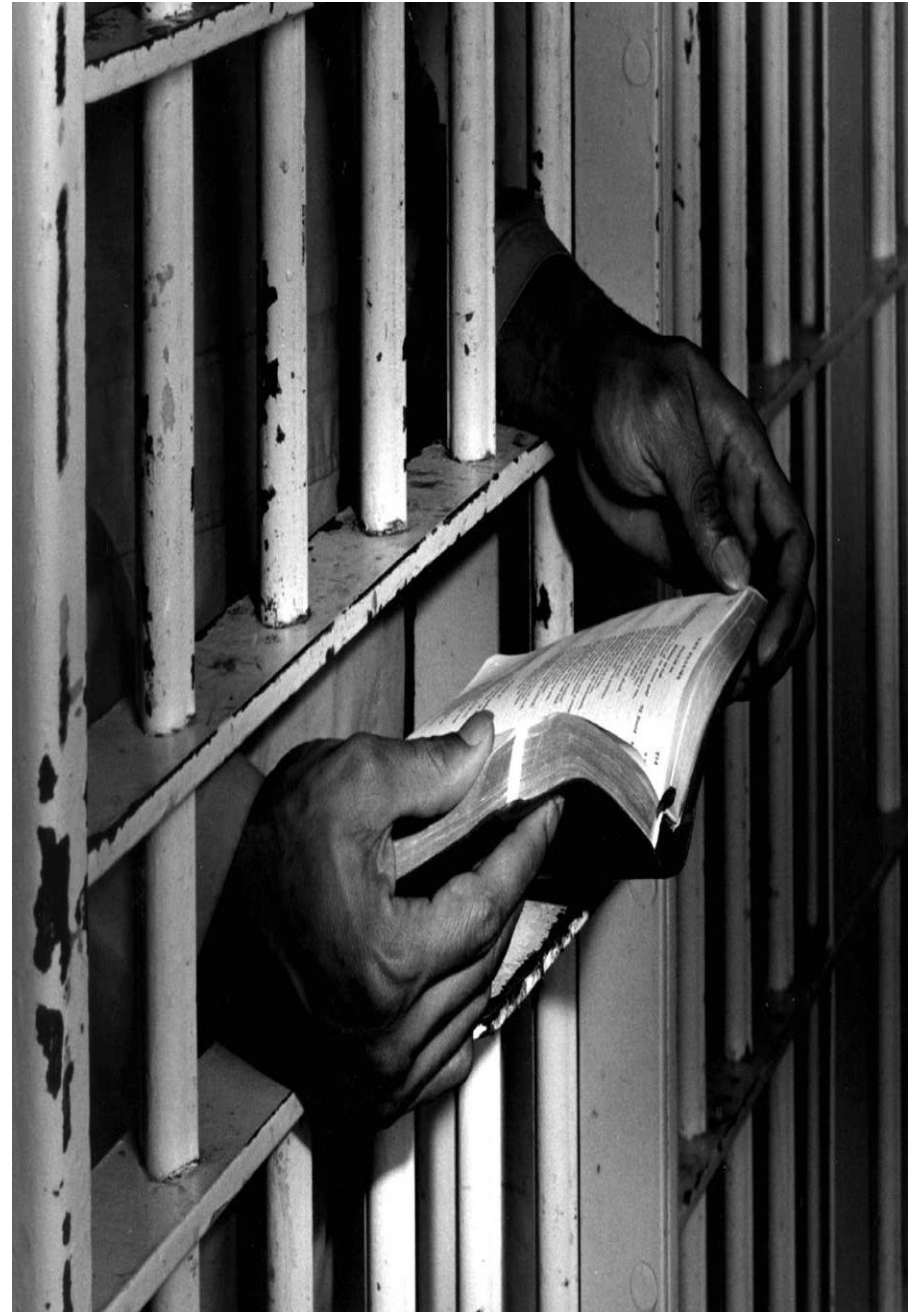
Man's laws
CANNOT
make moral

what God has
DECLARED
immoral



- **PRINCIPLE #2:** When the laws, rules, and policies of those in authority violate the clear teaching of the Word of God, the believer, with a clear conscience, has the right and duty before God to resist that law.

- **Note:** When a believer is compelled to obey God rather than man...
 - He must do so without disrespecting the human institution of authority (e.g., he is NOT being rebellious, he is standing on the truth of God!)
 - He must be prepared to accept the consequences for his stand for God (e.g., throughout history many believers have been threatened, beaten, thrown in jail, tortured, and executed for their convictions)





- **PRINCIPLE #3:** God did not call the believer to live in vice (e.g., in violation of the laws of society).
 - The believer is NOT to look for excuses to do what is wrong, unethical, immoral or illegal.
 - The believer is to live like a bondservant of God (e.g., one who lives for and serves God).

**MOTIVATION #3: THE EXPECTATION: HONOR ALL
PEOPLE, LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD, FEAR GOD,
HONOR THE KING 1 Peter 2:17**

Respect

"Show respect even to people who don't deserve it; not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours."

Dave Willis

Voice actor, writer, producer,
musician

- **PRINCIPLE:** All believers should have a personal code of conduct that shows respect to everyone.
 - Honor all people (e.g., respect all people, saved and unsaved)
 - Love the brotherhood
 - Fear God (e.g., respect and reverence God)
 - Honor the king (e.g., respect the office of authority).

- **POINT:** The unsaved world is watching what a believer does and how they live their lives.
 - When a believer purposely breaks the laws, bends the rules, and violate policies, they cause division, confusion, dissention, and show hypocrisy to the unsaved world.
 - The believer is a lighthouse to the world in all circumstances
 - God did NOT call the believer to anarchy!



A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

- Does your family, community, and church see you as a godly law-abiding citizen?



RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



- 1. Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, **died** on the cross for your sin, and that He **arose** again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- 3. Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.