



BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW!

Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!

The Constitution and Self-Government!!

1 Samuel 8:1-7

Topical Message #10 – S985

Sermon given on February 20, 2022

@ Calvary Chapel French Valley, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

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The Constitution and Self-Government!!

1 Samuel 8:1-7

Opening Comments

- Today, we continue our series: **Biblical Worldviews: Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!**
- This country was originally founded on the notion that people should be free to worship God as they understand Him in His Word
- The first settlers were Pilgrims, Puritans, Quakers, Lutherans
- Most of the early settlers were religious people who came to the 'New World' to escape religious persecution and to spread the gospel to the indigenous peoples of America
- Many of the countries they fled from were religiously oppressive
- Our founders came to this land to flee a secular government that sought to control how people worshipped God
- They had experienced, first-hand, the dangers of one person having total control over all facets of life, including religion - tyranny
- When it came time to form a government – they recognized the need to limit government power – to prevent the tyranny they had escaped
- That is captured in the first three words of the Constitution – “We the people...”
- The government exists to serve its citizens – not the other way around – all citizens – not just rich and powerful
- Turn to **1 Samuel 8**
- Over the last couple of years, we have heard people talking about government overreach
- What they mean when they say that is that the government is going beyond the limits set by the Constitution
- One example of where we are hearing that is in regard to vaccine mandates
- Some are questioning the government's authority to force people to take an experimental drug with proven detrimental side effects that may or may not be effective against a virus that is not a significant threat to most people, especially children
- Our founding fathers established limits to the power of government

- Something has been lost in the modern view of government
- Let's pray and then talk about that!
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Constitution and Self-Government!!**
- There are a lot of similarities between how the founding fathers set up government of the United States and how Israel was governed
- There were twelve tribes, each having their own territory just like the original 13 states of the US
- Each colony had a single leader – like a governor
- There was a federal head – starting with Moses
- But there was one group that was separate from the rest – the Levites
- They attended to the things of God and served in the tabernacle and then the temple to help people in their worship of God
- The head of the Levites was the High Priest – Aaron was the first one, and his descendants filled that role after him
- From the very beginning God established a separation between civil government and religious worship
- That is reflected in the First Amendment to the Constitution
Amendment I (1791) - Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
- There are two clauses that are pertinent to this message
- The first is the Establishment clause – ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion’
- Congress does not have the authority to establish a national religion
- The second clause is the ‘Free Exercise’ clause – ‘Congress shall make no law...prohibiting the free exercise thereof...’
- Congress doesn't have the authority, according to the Constitution that they swore to uphold, to prevent people from freely exercising their religion
- As the culture becomes increasingly secular and government expands its power, they will seek to get around these clauses
- We have gotten to where we are in this country because people have been led to believe it is what they want

- This is not new – Samuel had to deal with something similar
- Samuel was not the king of Israel – he was a judge
- He acted as a spokesman for God and helped people solve their disputes
- But Samuel got old
- **1 Samuel 8:1-5**
- Hopefully you saw what the first problem is with their request
- ‘like all the nations’
- God had called Abraham to separate him from the nations to make a people who were not like the nations
- God didn’t establish their system of government with a king because that is not what He wanted
- **1 Samuel 8:6-9**
- Samuel was upset – God said, ‘Don’t be! It is Me they have rejected.’
- God was their king – they wanted a king they could see and hear
- Turn to **John 18**
- One thousand years later when God sent His Son Jesus, a King they could see and hear, they responded the same way
- As Jesus stood before Pilate, he asked if He was a king
- **John 18:37**
- Pilate sought a way to release Jesus, but Jesus had an appointment on that cruel cross that no one could stand against
- **John 19:12-15**
- Jesus was not the king they wanted
- When the founding fathers set about to establish a government, they believed God was the ultimate ruler, not only of the newly formed nation but of all creation
- Not only is God ruler over the nation, He is also ruler over the citizens of the nation
- Our Constitution has prevented the United States from declining into tyranny
- COVID-19 has revealed that there are forces at work trying to erode our ‘We the people’ system of government and replace it with a form of government where power and wealth is held by an elite few
- They have always been there, they are becoming bolder

- Government isn't inherently evil
- The word 'government' is defined
Government: the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states; direction of the affairs of a state, community, etc.; political administration
- Another definition is...
Government: direction; control; management; rule
- The purpose of government is to instill order and prevent chaos
- Every grouping of people has a form of government
- Businesses, clubs, churches, even street gangs are organized
- Every segment of society, whether they are good or evil establishes its own form of government
- This goes right down to the most basic segment of our culture and society – marriage and the family
- There are forces at work in our culture and government seeking to divorce God from all this country's doings
- And the consequences are destroying this country and causing increasing levels of suffering
- Our founding fathers wrote in the Declaration of Independence that we are all created equal by God and have the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- And then they wrote a Constitution that was meant to protect those rights
- Something has changed in our culture – something has been lost that makes us vulnerable
- The government our founding fathers envisioned depends upon most people being self-governed
Self-governed: self-regulating; self-determining; exercising self-restraint or self-control.
- Our culture has encouraged people to abandon self-control
- The BLM riots and recent shoplifting mobs are examples of that
- The culture is encouraging people to delude themselves into believing that they are not the gender they were born with
- And it is getting worse every day
- This week, I heard about a perverted grammar school teacher who maintains a 'transition closet' in his classroom

- This is for young children who have parents who object to their transitioning to a gender different than the one they were born with
- They can wear the clothes their parents approve of to school and then go into the closet and change into clothes that match their delusion of their gender – it is sick, and he is proud of it
- He and people like him are not exercising self-control
- They are letting their basest desires control them
- And worse, they are encouraging others to do the same
- We know that self-control is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23a

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control.

- The ‘more perfect union’ our founding fathers envisioned was based on the belief that Spirit-filled people who exercised self-control did not need a government to tell them what to do
- If God is your king and you are humbly walking in faith and obedience to His Word, you wouldn’t need a government to control you and to take care of you
- And the more people who are not yielded to God and His Word, the more they need government to control them and take care of them
- The problem is worsened when the people running the government are not exercising self-control and have as their king their own base desires
- Has it gone too far – is America lost – is it too late to save our country
- Absolutely not! As long as there is life, there is hope!
- So, what do we do? First – pray for revival! **2 Chronicles 7:14**
If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
- Throughout the history of the church, when God’s people humbled themselves and prayed – God heard and responded
- Second – Trust God, not the Government!
- We cannot trust the government to have our best interests in mind
- Because the government is controlled by people who are controlled by their basest desires
- The government is controlled by people who have rejected God and His Word and have no idea what is good

- We can trust in God and place our hope in Him because He knows us personally and loves us unconditionally **Romans 5:5**
Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- Because of God's love, we can trust that He will always lead us toward good
- Third – Seek Righteousness **Matthew 5:33**
But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- Seek to be right with God in all your ways
- And righteousness from those around you
- If I knew my child was in a school where one of the teachers had a 'transition closet' – I would make sure my child was not in that class and I would work to get that teacher fired – it is perversion
- Christians have tolerated evil for too long and what is happening in our country is the consequence
- The 'live and let live' attitude has allowed evil to flourish
- Our founding fathers imagined a country where its citizens were self-governed – where God is king, and His Word is the basis for our view of the world around us
- It might seem hopeless, but it is not **Luke 1:37**
For with God nothing will be impossible.
- Your part is faith – believe and act like you believe **Matthew 17:20b**
I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.
- Let's pray like God can change things
- Let's trust God like our life depends on it
- Let's seek righteousness and call those around us to righteousness
- And then let's watch our great God do something radical!
- **Prayer**