

B.O.S.S. Study Guide
Week of April 19, 2010

Take a look at your notes from Sunday - the answers to the following questions will be found there.

What was the current condition of the church in Smyrna as described in Rev. 2:8-11?

What were they warned was going to be happening to them in the future?

How were they commanded to respond?

As a city, subject to the governmental system of Rome, the people and church at Smyrna did not nearly have the political rights and privileges we have as Americans. So to make too rigid of comparisons is dangerous, but worth considering.

How influenced are we as a church by the social and political climate of our country?

How prepared are we to handle a political climate that might radically change life in our community and in our church?

We want to spend the rest of our time considering the following question. **What does the New Testament teach about a Christian's responsibility to government?**

As we look at these passages, understand that the participatory nature of Christians in America towards their government was unimaginable to those in the Roman world. Also understand that most Christians today do not live in our form of government, so what is taught in the New Testament are principles that can be applied in any situation.

Read Romans 13:1-4

First list all of the principles Paul teaches in these verses.

How do they apply practically in our form of government in the United States today?

Read Mark 12:13-17

What principle is Jesus teaching?

How do we apply it to our situation today?

Read I Timothy 2:1-3

What principles are being taught in these verses by Paul?

How do we apply them to our situation today?

In these verses we are being commanded to participate in and with our government in a way that is pleasing to God, at peace with men and working toward the furtherance of the Gospel. In some countries participation is extensive and open, for others, not so much. So when we speak of participation in our form of government, it would also include at least; voting, supporting candidates, encouraging righteous and just laws, taking advantage of all the political opportunities afforded under the law but within the principles we have just considered.

What else might it include?

What is too far - moves into the realm of rebellion or disobedient?

Read Acts 5:27-32 – could you possibly imagine a situation like this happening in America? If so, what might it look like?

In short:

Submit and obey

Pay

Pray

Stand faithful even unto death. **How prepared are we for that?**