

# Early Church Today

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***There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus***

1 Timothy 2:5

## Help!

***The Ancient Septuagint in English*** is currently being edited. The goal is to provide an accurate, readable and inspirational Old Testament based on the text used by the Apostle's and early Christians. The first books are now online at [ancientseptuagint.com/](http://ancientseptuagint.com/).

Help is needed to proof read these drafts. If you would like to be involved in this work, contact [editor@earlychurch.com](mailto:editor@earlychurch.com)

***Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you . . .***

Matthew 5:44

## CHOKED BY THE POLITICS OF THE WORLD

Contributed by a former militant political activist;  
now a patriot for GOD's Kingdom.

***. . . Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with . . . [the] cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*** Luke 21:34-36

Ever since the birth of pseudo-Christianity in fourth century, most Christians have been tricked into believing that it is their duty to support and defend their county, just as those of the world do. For the last several centuries many nations have adopted various forms of representative government; that is, government by the governed. In most western nations that system proclaims the premise that this form of government is somehow "Christian."

However, when it comes to politics, the attitudes and actions of most Christians residing in these countries are anything but Christian. Instead, they produce much of the same anger, bitterness and anxiety as non-Christians display including vicious diatribes against the government, its officials, and policies. Since worldly government is the business of men there will always be injustices, just as there were under Roman, Persian, and other regimes in New Testament and early Christian times.

So, what should we 21st century disciples of CHRIST do concerning our "rights" and "responsibilities" toward the worldly system we find ourselves surrounded by? The answer is obvious! We must look to the Holy Scriptures; and, if there seems to be ambiguity on any point, to the understanding of those disciples the Apostle's ordained to lead the Church.

First, we have JESUS' attitude about involvement in worldly politics: ***When JESUS therefore perceived that they would come and take Him by force, to make Him a king, He departed again into a mountain Himself alone.*** John 6:15

Peter wrote (At a time when Nero was Roman Emperor): ***Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of GOD, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear GOD. Honour the king.*** 1 John 2:13-15 & 17

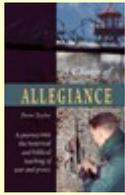
And the LORD, speaking through Paul, said: ***Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*** 2 Corinthians 6:17

Later, the disciples of the Apostle's wrote:

We have no pressing inducement to take part in your public meetings. Nor is there anything more entirely foreign to us than the affairs of state. Tertullian (*c. 197, W*), 3.46 \*

You know that you who are the servants of God dwell in a strange land. For your city is far from this one. . . . Do you not understand that all these things belong to another, and are under the power of another? . . . Take note, therefore, as one living in a foreign land, and make no further preparations for yourself than what is merely sufficient. And be ready to leave this city, when the master of this city will come to cast you out for disobeying his law. Hermas (*c. 150, W*), 2.31. \*

## We Recommend



### A Change of Allegiance

What should a Christian do with Jesus' words, "Love your enemies?" Is it all right for a Christian to go to war? Doesn't a Christian have an obligation to defend his country? Dean Taylor and his wife Tania were both in the U. S. Army when they realized that, as committed Christians, they had to come to grips with these questions in a new and sincere quest for truth.

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<http://www.scrollpublishing.com/store/more-ChangeAllegiance.html>



### Myth of Christian America

A new CD series by David Bercot on the founding of America. But unlike most Christian studies about America, this series of stimulating lectures are based on the fundamental Christian doctrines of nonresistance and the Two Kingdoms. In the course of this series, Bercot demonstrates that America is *not* a Christian nation—and never has been. This is a work in progress, and we are now releasing the first five discs.

<http://www.scrollpublishing.com/store/more-Myth-set.html>

It is not possible for anyone to enter into the kingdom of heaven who has not been turned away from the affairs of this world . . . *Origin (c. 245, E), 9.485. \**

The one peaceful and trustworthy tranquility, the one solid, firm, and constant security is this: for a man to withdraw from this whirlpool of a distracting world and to lift up his eyes from earth to heaven, anchored on the ground of the harbor of salvation. *Cyprian (c. 250, W), 5.279. \**

So we see that the early brethren recognized the fact that they were *"in the world, but not of the world."*

Yet, today there are scurrilous attacks on the character of governments and politicians by Christians who know neither the persons nor the issues first hand. Their opinions are based entirely on what others, such as politicians and the news media, tell them. Remember, everyone has an agenda. Some statements made by those sources are true, and some are not. How do we know? While members of the media should be objective, they seldom are. And the very nature of politics renders it less than honest at times. Even if they are not lying, their preconceived notions are often skewed, causing them to lead others into their errors.

America was founded on certain "Christian" principles two hundred and thirty two years ago. Since then most believers have striven to maintain godly standards by worldly political means. Yet, for all the time and effort expended, America now condones the slaughter of forty million innocent babies, makes divorce legal under any pretext, legalizes pornography and flaunts homosexuality and sodomite "marriages." Today, the average American has the morals of an alley cat. And America is not alone in this wickedness. All so called "Christian" nations are doing likewise, or worse.

Now, the question is: should we Christians, who are citizens of the Kingdom of GOD, become involved in the worldly political frenzy of nations where we are only strangers and pilgrims? Should we waste our time and resources seeking political leaders and laws to force others to do what we believe is right? Should we waste our time and energy in pursuing the affairs of a foreign nation instead of focusing our time and energies on *our* country . . . the Kingdom of Heaven? Because Christians have involved themselves in worldly politics, the name of CHRIST and His Church has become odious in the eyes of millions in the world. Obviously, it's not working.

So, let us do as the early Christians did. They shunned worldly political power. They compelled others by their lives, not their votes. They prayed and trusted *solely* in GOD to provide for *all* their needs, and He did so abundantly. "In GOD we trust" was in their hearts, not on their coins. That Church (unlike Christendom today) turned the world upside down. So:

***Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.***

Proverbs 3:5-7

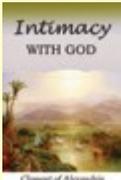
\* From: *A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs*, Edited by David W. Bercot © 1998; Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

### Where Is Your Treasure?

From a brother in Loveland, CO.

The rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-26, Luke 18:18-27 and Mark 10:17-27 was rich, young and upright. He kept the Commandments. He was a ruler (A man of influence), and he was eager to know what he must do to inherit eternal life. This man was not expecting to hear what Jesus required, for when Jesus said to him, "This one thing you lack: go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, and come take up your cross and follow Me," the young man went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. Apparently he loved money and his possessions more than he loved God.

The Bible warns us that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. In 1 Timothy 6:10 Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon." (Matt

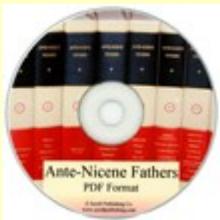


## Intimacy with God

Clement of Alexandria

What does it mean to really know God? If you had sat at the feet of a respected Christian teacher in the second century, what would you have learned about knowing God? Clement of Alexandria was such a teacher. Here are his insights on what it truly means to know God. Among the topics that Clement discusses are: the proper use of wealth, true and false repentance, separation from the world, love, holiness, and the value of the inspired Scriptures. Translated into contemporary, readable English.

<http://www.scrollpublishing.com/store/more-Intimacy.html>



### Ante-Nicene Fathers

The early Christian writings known as the Ante-Nicene Fathers are the most valuable aid to understanding the New Testament in its historical context. Now you can have their entire writings at your disposal in PDF format. Our PDF version is complete with table of contents so that the user can quickly find any particular work. Not only that, the PDF format allows the user to quickly do word searches throughout the entire set of writings. The user can also highlight passages of interest and add his own comments.

<http://www.scrollpublishing.com/store/more-CD-ANF.html>

6:24)

Mammon is money, possessions, wealth; simply all things of the world that money can buy. A Christian either loves God, or loves mammon. If he loves mammon, he hates God. Which master, God or mammon, are you serving? You must choose one or the other. If Satan would come to us as the devil we would recognize him and flee, or tell him to flee in Jesus' name. But he comes as money and we grab it, thinking it's a blessing from God. Satan is very clever. He has been deceiving people for thousands of years. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing. He even got one third of the angels to follow him.

God's word says, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him." (1 John 2:15) "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God. Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself and enemy of God." (James 4:4)

Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasure in Heaven where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also." (Matt 6:19-21) "For the kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for the joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all and bought it." (Matt 13:44-46)

We must forsake all to obtain that treasure we have found in Jesus Christ. God must be number one in our life. Jesus gave up everything for you. Can't you do the same for Him? "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for this soul." (Mark 8: 36-37)

Don't be like the rich fool in Luke 12:15-21 who laid up treasure for himself, and was not rich toward God. "We brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness." "Do good, be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share; storing up for yourself a good foundation for the time to come, that you may lay hold of eternal life." 1 Tim. 6:7-11,18-19.

Do not live for this world, but live for the world to come, for it is eternal. Make Jesus the *only* master, and serve Him with *all* your heart.

A servant is not above his master. "It ill becomes the servant to seek to be rich, and great, and honored in this world where his Lord was poor, and mean, and despised" - George Muller

A Christian should live frugally and sacrificially for the spread of the Gospel. His motto should be, "labor hard, consume little, give much - and all to Christ." - A. N. Groves

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." - Jim Elliot (He had and gave both).

### Where's Your Treasure?

If a camel can't go through a needle's eye,  
Then where will the rich man go when he dies?  
Sell all that you have, and give to the poor  
Store your treasure up in heaven  
Have no treasure here on earth.  
And don't love this world and don't love your life.  
Live your life for Jesus, a life of sacrifice.  
"Silver and gold have I quite a large sum.  
Spend it on self, and have lots of fun."  
But there's people all around you that are going to hell.  
"Oh I hear the stores on main street are having a  
sidewalk sale.  
Silver and gold have I quite a large sum.  
Bigger houses, expensive cars, lots of stuff, lots of fun.  
Spend it on self" - Oh- here comes the Son.  
If a camel can't go through a needle's eye,

*This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The Angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.*

*O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.*

*Psalm 34:6-8*

### Ancient Wisdom

To be subject to our lusts, and to yeald to them, is the most extreme form of slavery. To keep those lusts in subjection is the only liberty.

*Clement of Alexandria (c. 195, E), 2.378.*

**JESUS said,**

***"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than food, and the body than raiment? . . . Therefore be not anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or with what shall we be clothed? . . . But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.***

Matthew 6:24-25, 33  
(Noah Webster Bible)

Matthew 6:24-2

Then where will the rich man go when he dies?  
Sell all that you have, and give to the poor  
Store your treasure up in heaven  
Have no treasure here on earth.  
And don't love this world, and don't love your life.  
Take up your cross daily, and follow Jesus Christ.

### Top 5 Reasons Muslims Convert to Christianity

by S. Sabir Ali at [www.ministry-of-grace.org](http://www.ministry-of-grace.org)

Most Christians tend to think Muslims are diametrically opposed to the Gospel. They cite immense cultural barriers, anti-Christian beliefs and violent behavior that makes Muslims the most difficult group of people to reach with the Good News of Jesus.

Historically, that may have been true. But God is doing a new thing among Muslims! God is using technology explosion, global economy and even wars to bring His people into contact with Muslims. ***"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"*** (Isaiah 43:19).

Today the handful Muslim background believers that I am discipling in Bangalore City mostly came in touch through the internet, then came to our meetings in person. Most of them are from very strong conservative Muslim backgrounds and still living with their own people, yet strongly following the Christ our Lord.

Of course it is a new thing and amazing work of God I see in their lives. I did not face any arguments or resistant to the facts of the Bible I shared. They were so open and diligent to study and comparing the scriptures of Islam and the Bible. Though they are not open to their families and to their Muslim community yet they are set free in their hearts and minds, and there is nothing in Islam left to beguile them from the truth they received from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ***"You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."*** John 8:32 ***"Let there be no compulsion in religion; truth stands out clear from errors."*** The Quran 2:256

I was reading an article in Christianity-Today regarding today's trends of Christian mission to Muslims. I read "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Charles Dickens said that about the times leading up to the French Revolution in *A Tale of Two Cities*. The same could be said today of the Christian witness to Muslims who belong to a bitterly divided community undergoing a revolution.

The anti-Christian part of the Islamic resurgence certainly qualifies as the "worst of times." But those who long for Muslims to know Jesus . . . in fact, that Muslims have chosen to follow Christ in arid lands undoubtedly constitute the "best of times."

So what attracts Muslims to follow Jesus? A survey was conducted among 750 Muslims who have decided to follow Christ. They filled out an extensive questionnaire on that basic question. —from 30 countries and 50 ethnic groups—representing every major region of the Muslim world.

Top 5 Reasons Muslims Convert to Christianity:

1. The lifestyle of Christians.
2. The power of God in answered prayers and healing.
3. Dissatisfaction with the type of Islam they had experienced.
4. The spiritual truth in the Bible.
5. Biblical teachings about the love of God.

You can read the entire article "Why Muslims Follow Jesus" [here](#). But first, please pray and ask God what your role is in reaching the many Muslims in your area. Ask for a watchful heart for the "new thing" He is doing. How can you live for Christ among the Muslims in your community? We want to help you.

Praise and Prayers:

1. Praise God for the way He is working in the lives of our MBBs brothers and sisters.
2. Pray for their struggles and reproaches they face in their families and friends due to their faith in Christ.
3. Pray for God's provisions to re-produce evangelistic, teaching and training DVD's and CD's for both seekers and ministers in India .

Thank you for your prayer support.

In the Master's Service.

S. Sabir Ali