

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

1. How would you describe the attitude that Paul had towards those with governing authority over him?

2. What is your attitude towards those with governing authority over you?

3. Which do you think has the greatest power to change the world:
 - a) The Government
 - b) The Church

4. As Christians, we are called to pray for those in authority over us. Think about three ways you can pray for your governing authorities this week and write them down here:
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)

SERMON SERIES: THE CHURCH'S CHALLENGE
Sermon Message: What Happens When God's Will Is Done On Earth—The Challenge of Government
November 15, 2009
Dr. Jason Pettus



Today's Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29.11
Next Week's Focus: Gift for Christ
Testimonies: Jason and Dwan Graham

THE CHURCH MUST GUARD AGAINST BEING SO _____ TO GOVERNMENT THAT SHE LOSES HER IDENTITY.
Ephesians 6:12, Ephesians 2:19-20, 1 Peter 2:9-12

THE CHURCH MUST ALSO AVOID BEING SO _____ TO GOVERNMENT THAT SHE IS UNABLE TO INFLUENCE CULTURE.
Romans 13:1-2, 1 Peter 2:13-17, Titus 3:1, Matthew 5:13-16

A LOCAL CHURCH CAN SERVE HER GOVERNMENT BY WORKING UNDER ITS AUTHORITY WITHOUT LOSING THE CHURCH'S IDENTITY AS A _____.
Acts 25

Acts 23:11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."
John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

NOTE: Be sure and check out Pastor Jason's blogspot at pastorjasonpettus.blogspot.com. Check for updates every Monday. You can post comments and ask questions about what you've read, heard, and discussed.

A copy of today's message will be available at the kiosk in the lobby immediately following the service. Suggested donation for tapes or CDs is \$2. First time guests get today's tape/CD free by turning in your guest card at the Welcome Center.

This study guide is a resource for your Small Group to use for further study about today's sermon. If you need to find a Small Group, please contact Richard Carwile at rcarwile@lhbg.org or 843-9462. You can view a list of our Small Groups at www.livinghopewired.com.

O V E R V I E W

- 1) According to Philippians 3:20, our "citizenship is in heaven". How would you compare being a citizen of the United States of America with being a citizen of heaven? How are the two similar? How are the two different?
- 2) We are instructed in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 to pray for those who lead our government. How often do you pray for our government? What do you (or should you) pray for when you pray for them?

A C C L O S E R L O O K

A c t s 2 5

Read Acts 25 and discuss the following questions:

- 1) Summarize the events that occur in Acts 25:1-12. Describe Paul's response concerning who needed to hear his case.
- 2) Based on what you read in Acts 25, how would you describe Paul's attitude towards the government and towards the law?
- 3) In verse 24, Festus testifies that the Jews wanted to kill Paul. What is Festus' response to the threats in verse 25? What charges did he indicate concerning Paul?
- 4) Look back at Acts 24:27; how long had Paul been in prison at this point? Based on what you know about Paul from his epistles, how did this time in prison effect his ministry?