

# Politics & Religion: Introduction and Background



## The Introduction

- ❖ **The BIG Idea:** For God's glory, you should vote responsibly.

## The Bible and God's Glory

### ❖ Jesus and Pilate

- Text: **\*\*John 18:33-38a, 19:9-11**

### ❖ Human Government

#### ➤ Origin

- **God is a God of law and order** (Consistent with His character) ~ Punishment for Disobedience (back to the Garden)
- **God is the source of all human government**

#### ➤ Function

- Text: **\*\*Romans 13:1-7** (Thesis and Premise— **vv. 1-2** ~ starts with **Origin** of Government)
- **Protection** (v. 3)
- **Punishment** (v. 4)
- **Promotion** (v. 4)
  - **Promote General Welfare** ~ “minister to **you** for good” (NB: NOT the good of the rulers!)
  - **Promote Human Liberty** ~ Freedom from “Bondage”
- **General** (“Ideal”) **Principle:** The institution of government is good. *Lawless* anarchy is not only rebellion against human authority, but actual rebellion against God! **\*\*Romans 13:5-7**

### ❖ Human (Our) Purpose

- **Biblical Principle:** Humans are the pinnacle of creation → “*imago dei*”
- **Ultimate Purpose:** *Glorify God* (salvation)! ~ “Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have **created for My glory**; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”” **Isaiah 43:7**
- Mandate (under **Ultimate Purpose**): *Have Dominion*
- **\*\* Our Responsibility to Government** (~ macro view—cf. **Romans 13:1-2**)
  - Text: **1 Peter 2:13-17**
  - **We should recognize and accept that the powers that be are ordained by God.**
  - **We should pay our taxes.**
  - **We should pray for the leaders in government.**

## The Conclusion

- ❖ **So What?**

## The Constitution and Our Responsibilities

### ❖ The Founders

#### ➤ *The Context:*

#### ➤ *The Sources:*

- **Bible** (~ 34%)
- **“Enlightenment” Thinkers** (~ 22% ~ “Most Important” quotes/libraries/studied/sources recommended):
  - **Montesquieu** (8.3%) ~ French Lawyer and Political Philosopher
  - **Blackstone** (7.9%) ~ English Barrister and Teacher of Law
  - **Locke** (2.9%) ~ English Philosopher and Physician

#### ➤ *The Consequences:* The American Revolution

- Return to *First Principles* (vs. *Tradition* of Glorious Revolution) of *Natural Law* and *Natural Rights* ~ Based on God’s Law/Biblical Principles ~ **\*\*Psalm 96**
- Importance of Limited Government → *Separation of Powers* → **\*\*Isaiah 33:22**
- Purpose of Government ~ *Social Compact*: Protect Citizens’ Life, Liberty, and Property

### ❖ The Documents (\* Resources)

#### ➤ *The Declaration of Independence*

#### ➤ *The Federalist Papers*

#### ➤ *The Constitution*

- **Distinctives:**
  - *Separation of Powers*
  - *Enumerated Powers*
- **Principles of Understanding:**
  - *Originalism*
  - *Textualism*

## The Conclusion

### ❖ So What?

#### ➤ Summary of our Government

- **Unlimited** King!
- **Limited** Government with Separation of Powers → *All men are created equal...*
- **Constitutional Republic** → *Lex, Rex!*

#### ➤ Our Responsibility to (God-ordained) Government

- Text: **\*\*Deuteronomy 31:24-29**

**Soli Deo Gloria**