

4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.



the gospel of

MARK

1:1

THE SON OF GOD

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. 9 And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away.



45 Immediately he made his disciples get 46 And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. 47 And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. 48 And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night[g] he came to them, walking on the sea.

And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."

8:29

YOU ARE THE CHRIST

And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"



15:39

TRULY, THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD



Jesus and the Role of Government

Mark 12:13-17



I. Christians should be good citizens.



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- **Herodians: supported Herod, pro-Rome, the liberals of the day.**
- **Pharisees: hoped for Messiah to overthrow Rome, anti-Rome, conservatives of the day.**
- **Jesus' authority threatened everyone in power.**

I. Christians should be good citizens

- **Does God's law allow for us to pay taxes to Caesar?**

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- **Roman poll tax, about a day's wage.**

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- **Jews hated this tax because it reminded them they were not free.**

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- **Jews hated this tax because it reminded them they were not free.**
- **Jews hated this tax because it claimed Caesar was a god and his mother the high priest.**



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- **Jesus' answer is the single greatest political statement ever made.**
- **Jesus is separating the government from God.**

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- **Human govt. is fundamentally legitimate because it is instituted by God.**
- **From the beginning, God has entrusted flawed humans to govern our world.**

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Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Romans 13:1

- **No one gets a free pass from this.**
- **God has ordained govt. to be the structure through which law and order is upheld.**

I. Christians should be good citizens

- **Every state, no matter what form or time in history, operates under an authority given by God.**

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- **Every state, no matter what form or time in history, operates under an authority given by God.**
- **The state operates under delegated authority, not ultimate authority.**

I. Christians should be good citizens

***By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just;
by me princes rule, and nobles...***

Proverbs 8:15-16

***He changes times and seasons; he removes
kings and sets up kings...***

Daniel 2:21

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- **The New Testament teaching is that almost any form of govt. is better than anarchy.**
- **Jesus was advocating paying taxes to a govt. that would kill him and most of the apostles.**
- **Why? Because govt. reflects the authority of God.**

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- **Our nation's govt. has deep historical and current flaws.**
- **There is still so much for us to be thankful.**
- **Thank you to all you serve in govt. in any capacity.**

I. Christians should be good citizens

- **Pay your taxes and obey the laws of the land.**



I. Christians should be good citizens

- **Pay your taxes and obey the laws of the land.**
- **Pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2).**



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**II. Christians should be good citizens
in all nations.**



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- **A govt. is legitimate regardless of whether it worships the one true God or even allows it.**
- **In Old Testament, God's people were to follow only a govt. appointed by God.**
- **Mosaic covenant: a national covenant with promises tied to a particular people and land.**

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- **Jesus decouples his followers from any particular nation with the new covenant.**
- **God's people are not to build a Christian nation, but are to integrate into all nations for the sake of Christ's kingdom (Matt 28:19-20).**

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- **While we should advocate that the govt. promote laws that align with God's moral law, we do not need a Christian govt. to live as Christians under that govt.**

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- **While we should advocate that the govt. promote laws that align with God's moral law, we do not need a Christian govt. to live as Christians under that govt.**
- **One of our core values is to be a multigenerational *and* multicultural church.**

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“The legal establishment of Christianity in many nations centuries after the apostles reflected an already distorted understanding of the gospel and led to terrible confusions as the church wielded the sword in religious wars and inquisitions.”

Mark Dever

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- **Jesus is calling us to obey the state not worship the state.**
- **What belongs to God? You!**

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- **Every person bears the image of God. You reflect his glory, his character, his authority.**
- **God is your ultimate authority. You are accountable to him for everything in your life.**
- **Jesus is teaching the limited authority of govt.**

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- **Sometimes civil disobedience is our Christian duty.**

III. Christians answer to the ultimate authority – God

- **Jesus didn't come to overthrow Rome, he came as a much more radical revolutionary against the cosmic enemies of sin and death at work in all of us.**