

Habakkuk # 15

“Faithfulness Means Good Citizenship”

Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:18-32; Matthew 22:15-21; Romans 13:1-7

Being a disciple is not the same as being a believer; there are many believers in Jesus Christ but very few persist to the level of true discipleship.

Jesus' challenge is not simply to be a believer and be satisfied or comfortable with where we are when we first believed but to realize as quickly as possible that we're living our lives today in light of how we'll live for all eternity.

What we choose to think and do in life right now impacts our position in eternity and to take our commission for future responsibility serious is becoming a true disciple.

The Jews were about to fall apart as a nation because as individuals, they rejected the Person of Jesus Christ (Hosea 4:1-6).

Because the Spiritual Kingdom within the National Kingdom was in such a minority, the freedoms, blessings, powers and joys the nation had enjoyed for centuries were about to be removed under the 5th Cycle of Divine Discipline in Lev26.

The group of people in the state of Israel today do not constitute the Jewish Nation as a theocracy under God!

If a nation, which is a divine institution, is to exist as God would have it exist with complete freedom, there must be inside that nation, a Spiritual Kingdom which has an influence but is in no way combined with that nation.

Religion is man seeking the attention of God by his own works, in contrast to Christianity, where the work has been done and man has but to receive it.

These Pharisees wanted their religion to rule the State but this was never God's intention. *Instead, God ordained certain institutions in the world for all members of the human race for their preservation and proper function.*

Nations have been ordained by God to keep the world from chaos and to prevent Satan from completely taking over the world.

Nationalism protecting freedom guarantees the opportunity for evangelism.

The Pharisees represented religion; the worst thing that's ever happened to this world being satanic in origin, concept and operation.

Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The interesting thing here is that while the Herodians and Pharisees were antagonistic toward each other, they joined forces to get rid of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you find a religious crowd joining forces with a political group, there has to be an extreme emergency and that great emergency is Jesus Christ!

Since His rejection, the Lord Jesus is now proclaiming a kingdom not on earth but a Spiritual Kingdom comprised of all believers, so He has become a non-entity or enemy to both parties.

Since the Pharisees are a religious party and the Herodians, a political party; we have in this unholy alliance, the union of Church and State.

God, in His Word, has separated the two to protect the world from religion as a source of conquest and enslavement.

The Herodians know Jesus has true claim to the throne of Israel because He's David's greater Son and the Pharisees know He's true Messiah, even though they won't accept Him but because of His claims, they're in danger of losing out in ruling the State.

Their plan was to attempt to trap Him with a question contrived to get Him to make a strong clear statement in opposition to the Roman Empire; opening the way for the Empire to execute Him as an insurrectionist and an enemy of the State.

When a believer's constantly Bible truth-fed, he has the correct standards in his soul by which to make decisions compatible with the Word of God.

Because of the biblical principle of subjection to the authority of government under divine institution #4, believers have the responsibility to pay their taxes.

Abuse by unfair taxes does not cancel the principle.

Leaders of government (God's servants) must be paid by a taxation system, just as the priests and Levites were maintained by the Jewish system of tithes.