



# The Gospel Changes Everything



***Christians & Politics –  
Learning from our Past***

Fall  
2020  
Series

## Matthew 22:17-22

<sup>17</sup> “Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?” <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?” <sup>19</sup> “Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup> and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” <sup>21</sup> “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

**The Politics of this World  
which Jesus Rejects**

Political Primacy, Political Complacency,  
Political Simplicity, Political Polarity

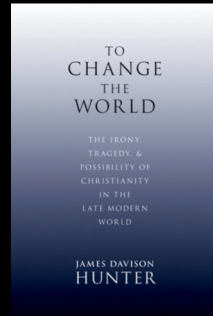
# The Politics of this World which Jesus Rejects

Political Primacy, Political Complacency,  
Political Simplicity, Political Polarity

Political Posturing, Political Certainty

If modern politics is the sphere of leadership, influence, and activity surrounding the state, politicization is the turn toward law and politics – the instrumentality of the state – to find solutions to public problems---Christians have not only embraced strategies that are incapable of bringing about the ends to which they aspire, they have also embraced strategies that are deeply problematic, shortsighted, and at times, profoundly corrupted.

James Hunter, *To Change the World*, 193



## **Ephesians 2:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) – <sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

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## **Ephesians 2:19-22**

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

<sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.



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4175. πολίτευμα *políteuma*; gen. *politeúmatos*, neut. noun from *politeúō* (4176), to behave as a citizen.

Any public measure, administration of the state, the condition or life of a citizen. In the NT, the state itself, community, commonwealth, used metaphorically of Christians in reference to their spiritual community and their status as citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20).

## Philippians 3:20–21

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

## Philippians 1:27

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.

How has this been interpreted historically  
within the American Church?



I believe the models...each have a firm grasp of a particular important truth, yet they tend to downplay other important truths. As a result, in its purest form, each model is biblically imbalanced, finding itself on the edge of a precipice that we must take care not to plunge over — and none of them are, as D. A. Carson puts it, “compelling as a total explanation or an unambiguous mandate.”

~ Keller, Timothy. Center Church (p. 189).  
Zondervan. Kindle Edition.



The call to be citizens of the kingdom of  
God as a local church community



The call to be citizens of the kingdom of  
God as a local church community

The call to be citizens of the kingdom of  
God as citizens within our communities

Christian friend, wherever you land, and in all areas of life,  
be careful to not trade your witness for a “win”.