Citizens in the Kingdom of God

Buddy Payne · 1 Timothy 6:15–16 · Series: **Christians Facing A Corrupting Culture**

INTRODUCTION

- We are also citizens in the kingdom of Christ at the same time.
- Our problem as Americans is we've never lived in a kingdom. And frankly, don't like it.
- As citizens, we are citizens in a kingdom spiritually.

1 In a Kingdom All Authority Rests in the King

Colossians 1:13

- He's rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved son.
- In a democracy, people have all authority and set up whatever government they choose.
- In a kingdom, the monarch has all authority. And he establishes and gives rights as he chooses.
- Kingdoms can be a good thing if you have a perfect king. The problem with that is earthly kingdoms don't have perfect kings. The kingdom of heaven has a perfect king.

2 An Earthly King in the Book of Esther

Esther 3:11–15

- I want to take just a few moments and examine an earthly king in the book of Esther.
- A massive empire ruled over by one monarch.
- And the king scribes wrote what the king wanted.
- It was sealed with the king's signet ring. It was the king's commission, even though Haman said it.

3 Our King Gave Gifts to Men

Ephesians 4:8–11; 2 Timothy 1:6–7; 1 Peter 4:11

- When Jesus was crowned as king, Ephesians 4 says he gave gifts to men.
- He himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints.
- They had no right to change what the king wanted. They were to distribute what the king wanted.
- Doesn't matter what I say, folks. It matters what God says.

4 Pastors and Teachers Are Local Servants

Acts 20:28; Galatians 1:8–9

- Pastors and teachers are local servants in local congregations ordained by God to have authority there, only under his authority.
- Their authority does not expand beyond the local church of which they're a part.
- You change what the King Jesus says, you're cursed in eternity. That's how serious it is.

5 Jesus and His Laws Do Not Change

Hebrews 13:8; Matthew 19:4–5; Jude 3

- Who is it in black robes? Who has the authority to change what God says?
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- No provision is made in the kingdom of Jesus for human councils to make or change laws for his kingdom.
- We're in the same kind of a world we were then, and God's laws have not changed in 2,000 years.

6 Laws in the Natural World Are Unchanging

John 1:3; Hebrews 1:3; Romans 1

- And I might say to you that laws in the natural world are unchanging.
- The reason we can presently do space exploration is because we've learned enough about nature's unchangeable laws to use them for our benefit.
- If God can make natural laws suitable for all ages, why not spiritual laws?
- The need is not to change God's laws to fit man's limited wisdom, as man has done over and over again. The need is to change man to fit God's perfect laws.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **There are two ways to study the Bible. You can study it to justify what you want to do, or you can study it to learn what the king wants us to do. Which do you think?**

MY NOTES