

The government under which Jesus lived was corrupt and oppressive; on every hand were crying abuses,—extortion, intolerance, and grinding cruelty. ***Yet the Saviour attempted no civil reforms. He attacked no national abuses, nor condemned the national enemies. He did not interfere with the authority or administration of those in power. He who was our example kept aloof from earthly governments.*** Not because He was indifferent to the woes of men, but because the remedy did not lie in merely human and external measures. ***To be efficient, the cure must reach men individually, and must regenerate the heart.*** {DA 509.3}

Not by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12, 13. Here is the only power that can work the uplifting of mankind. And the human agency for the accomplishment of this work is the teaching and practicing of the word of God. {DA 509.4}

When the apostle Paul began his ministry in Corinth, that populous, wealthy, and wicked city, polluted by the nameless vices of heathenism, he said, "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." 1 Cor. 2:2. Writing afterward to some of those who had been corrupted by the foulest sins, he could say, "But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 6:11; 1:4. {DA 510.1}

Now, as in Christ's day, the work of God's kingdom lies not with those who are clamoring for recognition and support by earthly rulers and human laws, but with those who are declaring to the people in His name those spiritual truths that will work in the receivers the experience of Paul: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Gal. 2:20. Then they will labor as did Paul for the benefit of men. He said, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2 Cor. 5:20. {DA 510.2}

Those who have charge of our institutions and our schools should guard themselves diligently, lest by their words and sentiments they lead the students into false paths. Those who teach the Bible in our churches and in our schools are not at liberty to unite in making apparent their prejudices for or against ***political men or measures,*** because by so doing they stir up the minds of others, leading each to advocate his favorite theory. There are among those professing to believe present truth some who will thus be stirred up to express their sentiments and ***political preferences,*** so that division will be brought into the church. {FE 475.1}

The Lord would have His people ***bury political questions. On these themes silence is eloquence.*** Christ calls upon His followers to come into unity on the pure gospel principles which are plainly revealed in the word of God. ***We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political schemes. We cannot labor to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty, and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their fellow men to keep Sunday as the Sabbath.*** The first day of the week is not a day to be revered. It is a spurious sabbath, and the members of the Lord's family cannot participate with the men who exalt this day, and violate the law of God by trampling upon His Sabbath. ***The people of God are not to***

vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office. {FE 475.2} {GW 391.2}

We are not compromise principle by yielding to the opinions and prejudices which we may have encouraged before we united with God's commandment-keeping people. We have enlisted in the army of the Lord, and we are not to fight on the enemy's side, but on the side of Christ, where we can be a united whole, in sentiment, in action, in spirit, in fellowship. Those who are Christians indeed will be branches of the true vine, and will bear the same fruit as the vine. They will act in harmony, in Christian fellowship. They will not wear political badges, but the badge of Christ. {FE 475.3}

What are we to do, then? -- ***Let political questions alone.*** "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" What can there be in common between these parties? There can be no fellowship, no communion. The word fellowship means participation, partnership. God employs the strongest figures to show ***that there should be no union between worldly parties*** and those who are seeking the righteousness of Christ. What communion can there be between light and darkness, truth and unrighteousness? -- None whatever. Light represents righteousness; darkness, error, sin, unrighteousness. Christians have come out of darkness into the light. They have put on Christ, and they wear the badge of truth and obedience. ***They are governed*** by the elevated and holy principles which Christ expressed in His life. But the world is governed by principles of dishonesty and injustice. {FE 476.1}

I call upon my brethren who are appointed to educate, to change their course of action. ***It is a mistake for you to link your interests with any political party, to cast your vote with them or for them.*** Those who stand as educators, as ministers, as laborers together with God in any line, ***have no battles to fight in the political world.*** Their citizenship is in heaven. The Lord calls upon them to stand as a separate and peculiar people. He would have no schisms in the body of believers. His people are to possess the elements of reconciliation. {GW 393.2}

Is it their work to make enemies in the political world?--No, no. They are to stand as subjects of Christ's kingdom, bearing the banner on which is inscribed, "The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." They are to carry the burden of a special work, a special message. We have a personal responsibility, and this is to be revealed before the heavenly universe, before angels, and before men. God does not call upon us to enlarge our influence by mingling with society, ***by linking up with men on political questions,*** but by standing as individual parts of His great whole, with Christ as our head. Christ is our Prince, and as His subjects we are to do the work appointed us by God. . . . {GW 393.3}

The question may be asked, Are we to have no union whatever with the world? The word of the Lord is to be our guide. Any connection with infidels and unbelievers that would identify us with them, is forbidden by the Word. We are to come out from among them, and be separate. In no case are we to link ourselves with them in their plans of work. But we are not to live reclusive lives. We are to do worldlings all the good we possibly can. {GW 394.1}

Christ has given us an example of this. When invited to eat with publicans and sinners, He did not refuse; for in no other way than by mingling with them could He reach this class. But on every occasion . . . He opened up themes of conversation which brought things of eternal interest

to their minds. And He enjoins us, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." [Matthew 5:16.] {GW 394.2}

"It is a mistake for you to link your interests with any political party, to cast your vote with them or for them." F.C.E. 475-484.

"The people of God are not to vote to place men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while they are in office." F.C.E. as above.

But the history of Isreal was a religious nation. 1Sam. 8, 12

Ex. 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but **let not God speak with us**, lest we die.

1Sam. 8:5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us **a king to judge us like all the nations.** *Matt. 20:25,26; John 18:36.*

12:12 And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: **when the LORD your God was your king.** Note Or when the Lord your God was your *Judge*.

12:13 Now therefore **behold the king, whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired!** and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you. *See Due. 17:14-17; 1Kings 11:3**

12:17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; **that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great,** which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, **in asking you a king.**

John. 19:14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, ***Behold your King!***

19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, **We have no king but Caesar.**

Notice the implications that they he, the king would set the standard, interpreter of the duty that would judge them, and not God. This is the snare to which ego and rebellion has opened the door. That men would look to man. Smooth things, then it is to the OT Jews and pagans. Nebuchadnezzar directed worship and commanded all to acknowledge his Golden image, and later the forced worship of the true. The history of ***Kings in Israel and Judah at times, as this natural progression shows, introduced other forms of worship, exposing the original intent, that they, not God, nor priests or prophets were the religious authority, while feigning to follow God. This principle was corrupt at its beginning, Imaging those Nations around them. See 1Sam. 13:9,12,13; 15:10,11,22,23,24. also Ahab and Jezebel—"Like all the nations" around them.***

They (Jews) did not seek redemption from sin, but deliverance from the Romans. They looked for the Messiah to come as a conqueror, to break the oppressor's power, and exalt Israel to universal dominion. Thus the way was prepared for them to reject the Saviour. {DA 29.4}

See Bible Church and State, Two Servants,