



## ***Do We Put The Cross Or The Flag On Top?***

By Kurt von Schleicher

### ***Go With The Cross! It Can Do What Politics And All Politicians Put Together Can Not Do!***

Are you feeling sick of all things “political”?

Many Christians feel that way about elections. They've given up on the whole election process in their country, often saying they know the outcome in advance—lameness will in office. Personally, I'm not ready to quit, I'm ready to pray and vote, because I don't want the worse kind of lameness to be promoted into high office. But what should we do about these feelings we get? I say we take them to the Lord who cares about them.

**Let's keep the main thing the main thing through all of this! Let's ignore the liberal news media get alone with our Maker to fast and thoroughly talk it over. There is indeed room for hope for those who are in Christ!**

Why should we refuse to quit? Why should keep ourselves from getting too busy for time alone with Christ? I'll tell you why. We really don't want to lose the fruit of love. And we don't quit obeying the Lord, because we want to try our best to hand the next generation and Christians the best America we can ..so it will be better for them and easier for Christians to spread the Gospel, rather than harder for them. Trying to reform sinners is a waste of time, and no one needs a worse hood to survive and function in!

Maybe you are wondering if there are any verses that deal with politics and nationalism. There are some. I remember reading how Jesus said to some religionists (who were out to trap Him) of His day, ***"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."***

**God expects us citizens to wisely get involved.** You know how God created the world “good” and how His intention was and is that human beings should rule it in a good way accordingly (see Gen. 1:26, 28).

In the Old Testament the Israelites were commanded not to rule "ruthlessly" but instead they were to manage things and walk in the ***"fear God"*** (see Lev. 25:43). Proverbs 1:7 states that ***"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."*** So to the extent that the Lord's image-bearers follow Christ and rule this earth under God's absolute authority, truth, and wise counsel, will they actually respectively fulfill their own human-

task. Part of fulfilling our respective callings individually as Christians, will include wise voting and evangelizing. Praise God we are still legally allowed to do both! That could change.

But it would be great if all politicians were really in Christ, committed, and others-orientated rather than selfish huh. I still think more able believers with His heart, should run for office here in America. The arena of politics is not an area for the Church to avoid!

And I certainly won't tell anyone who to vote for, but all Christians need to be interceding about now. We need to keep our eyes open and not give up the good fight of faith. We need to also keep first things first! We all need to get off our pews and show up at the poles in Jesus' Name — yes, not do that according to our feelings or according to what others ..or the media are pushing for.

Let's glorify God in our wide-eye-observations and thinking. Listen to both sides closely and discern!

### **Here Are Four Ways You Can Make A Difference During This Election Season:**

***1. Decide to be saved by Jesus; get spiritual and pray often in the Holy Spirit.** I know that might sound way religious, but its right and you would do well to even fast and pray with your church ..as God leads you. The apostle Paul basically instructed all his readers to hit their knees for all people in positions of authority (1Tim. 2:1-4). Prayer is to be an important aspect of political activism for Christians. Do you remember how William Wilberforce and his friends (later known as the Clapham Set) were all as committed to praying for social change as they were to engaging with government. England's involvement in slave trading had to go and they needed more than mere carnal efforts.*

***2. Get informed, but not with half-truths.** Effective prayer always needs to be well informed prayer. In order to keep abreast with the issues in your local community, society, nation and the world, be well read from the accurate sources online.*

***3. Do wake up and go vote!** Jesus rose from the dead, so put feet to you faith and get out of bed! President Josiah Bartlet, the fictional President from that TV show called The West Wing, said "Decisions are made by those who show up." Democracy to a certain degree, gives people a stake in power and responsibility. So use your vote and use it wisely.*

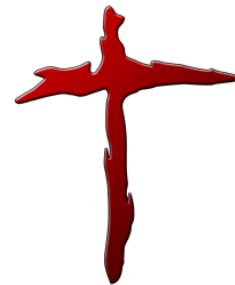
***4. No matter what happens in the future, purpose to keep things in proper perspective.** Remain more concerned with who will end up in God's house, than who will end up in the Whitehouse ..starting with yourself, family and neighbors. Stay in fellowship first upwards and then outwards ..submitting to authority short of sin. And continue to love Christ and His cross above all else!*

Do you love the cross of Jesus Christ? Do you have a relationship with the Jesus of the Bible? I sure do and am loving Him and His cross! [You can too right now!](#) That is most important!

The cross says you matter to God! The cross speaks to man's pride about any good works he might do trying to gain points with the Lord. The cross is a witness to our failure. Most people are born feeling really normal ..like they need no Savior, but we've all sinned. To evil worldly people around us the simple preaching of the cross is below pathetic and irrationally foolish, but Christ's Gospel of the cross and resurrection is in reality, the strength of God able to save.

Paul said, ***“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ”*** (Phil. 3:18, kjv). He exclaimed, ***“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God”*** (1 Cor. 1:18). He also proclaimed, ***“God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world”*** (Gal. 6:14, kjv). Paul even reminded believers, ***“The fact that I am still being persecuted proves that I am still preaching salvation through the cross of Christ alone”*** (Gal. 5:11, nlt).

Many would-be modern preachers say they don't want a bloody butcher shop kind of Gospel to present, so they have ceased to preach about sin, Hell, wrath and Christ's cross in hopes of gaining numbers. But the cross of Jesus is the only key that fits into the door of Heaven to open it and let you in. It's not by your doing at all, but not to decide about it is do decide—it's to say “No” to God's only provision for your blunders. Will you apply it by turning from sin and trusting the sinless Jesus who hung on the cross? Christ was not crucified on a pretty candle between two other candles in a cathedral. The Bible says, ***“Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by His baptism in water and by shedding His blood on the cross”*** (1 Jn. 5:6, nlt). It clearly states that, ***“God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross of Christ”*** (Col. 2:15, nlt). Christ didn't lose His deity or turn into a wormy evil creature and win the victory over the devil and his evil minions of darkness by wrestling him for the keys post death and descending into hell ..as many Word-faith TV preachers teach. No, on the cross He said it was finished!



The cross is the very focal point; the very intersection for all the years of history past and also for all the years still left before us (if there are still some years left before us in the future; look around you, Christ will indeed return soon). True Christians tend to differ on a lot of minor grey area non-essential things, but the cross is the very hub from which all the spokes of true Christendom actually stem from. All Christians can and must unify around the Christ who hung on that cross and around [Essential Christian doctrine](#) ...and around nothing else. We must never divide over non-essential issues!

We must never add to the Word or to the cross. We don't take away from them either. We don't elevate the flag above the cross or superimpose the cross onto any nations flag ..like they are somehow synonymous or equal in importance. To be born under the American flag does not mean that one is a Christian at all.

The cross is the beautiful centerpiece of our faith (I'm not talking about jewelry here..), and the means by which God's forgiveness comes free of charge if we are willing to repent and believe. It's in the cross that we glory, rather than in any weak religion or in

anything else this world has to offer ..no matter how glitzy or popular it might be. Remember, Jesus is the greatest Leader and He is the One this nation needs most during this critical hour.

And during this season, it is so easy for any of us to become distracted and turn our eyes away ..being drawn to secondary lesser things such as political maneuvering and beaurocratic advantage. Sure we all need to vote, but in the final analysis, we also need to have a clear view of how important know Christ is. Dying to self, the cross and following Jesus is what really matters. **The cross is God the Father's priority today!** God the Father thinks the cross is radically important! God is not a Republican, a Democrat or an Independent American.

**Redemption rather than political reformation is the Father's top priority. So many here have lost all confidence in God's strong ability to save Americans through the finished work of the cross, but that must change!** Besides, democracy won't even work here or anywhere if the hearts of men are wrong. Christ must be ruling the citizens from within ..living big in each one of them for democracy to work here on earth!

*Democracy without real Christianity can be an utter disaster. Look at Lebanon. Hamas was legally voted in there. It's not about the process; it's who is using it. ~ Aspen Kinkade*

We've all heard it said that oil and water don't mix. Like me, have you ever tried to mix them? They are way distinct from each other and don't really work together well. The cross and the flag also don't mix.. though all flag-wavers should embrace the cross and the Word.

Don't get me wrong; I never say that political leaders don't need the Bible or Christianity ..or that the Bible shouldn't be used by governmental leaders and their constituents as they each apply their faith under the Lordship of Christ. We all need the living Word of God! When you read the papers, it seems clear that very few political leaders are Christians. Of course all politicians should get saved and then follow the Bible.

I'm not saying Christians need to whine louder about their rights getting stepped on. The rights of Christians have been getting stepped on for over 2000 years. Christ's earthly rights go stepped on. So many believers feel their number one duty is to reform the evil sinners in our land so that our land can return to being a Christian nation. But in reality, America has never been a Christian nation. It has been a religious nation that has had some great presidents and leaders who were committed Christians. We've had many good laws that were scriptural (we are now getting more and more that aren't today).

What I am saying is this... When you look at history, it has shown us that those who mix the cross and any nation's flag or governmental symbol ..do a great disservice to both. What I mean is that when you put nationalism or its flawed leaders on equal par or maybe even elevate them above the Word of God—esteeming and obeying them more than the Christ of the cross and His Gospel, you are in big trouble. No citizen should do that. In Germany, I remember seeing a cross stamped in the middle of a swastika before and together on huge Roman looking statues that were used in political rallies for the glory of Hitler and his alleged utopian dream.

It's important for all believers to keep the cross and the flag distinct from one another ..in fact that is the way for us to fulfill our primary horizontal mission as ambassadors for Jesus. We are to be Christians before Americans, and that vertical passion will actually make us better Americans. We must also remember that our mission is transnational until He returns.

The cross was more important to Bonhoeffer than his nation's flag was. He never voted for that Austrian named, Hitler. It's still amazing how many Jews were systematically murdered and how precious people followed that small dweeb to their own destruction. Don't be arrogant. Take heed, for we could do the very same thing.

Have you ever read about Bonhoeffer? When I was a missionary overseas, it was so interesting for me to see how my German friends didn't like to ever see any flag waving in the context of any worship service. For the most part, they also didn't like to hear loud emotional sermons or political messages that messed with people's emotions.

Have you heard any moving messages of a future utopia lately?

On the contrary, many Americans honor what hateful rebellious C-list actors who aren't working have to say about politics. We seem to like their emotions; "feelings" and getting all charged up ..even more taking the time to look at the facts.

I dare you to read about that great man, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was considered a "wacho-extremist" in his day by the majority in German churches. The vast majority of Germany's pastors thought he was nuts. In fact, the vast majority of them wanted to marginalize him back in that day like he was some kind of Jesus freak.

Interesting fellow, Dietrich Bonhoeffer! He lived from February 4, 1906 to April 9, 1945 and was an outstanding German Christian. He was also a German Lutheran pastor, a theologian, and a participant in the German Resistance movement against Nazism. Because of his noble conviction and faithfulness, Dietrich was arrested in March of 1943, imprisoned, and then eventually executed by hanging. I'm sure he had an abundant entrance into heaven. Will you? I don't want to just get in by the skin of my teeth, I'm not like him, but I do want an abundant entrance.

I'm not saying that we have anyone close to Hitler or the anti-Christ in America today. It would appear that the anti-Christ will soon arise from Europe. And the revived Roman Empire there doesn't have to have ten nations, but ten rulers before he makes his entrance on to the world's stage.

We need to learn from history and be careful in the right Way. Germans never really knew where their country was soon headed. For a long time Bonhoeffer was relegated to the outer fringes of Christendom. His influence was relatively small at the time, but he was loyal and did what he could for the betterment of his land. While the masses believed, cheered, swooned and applauded Hitler, they fiercely repudiated Bonhoeffer. They chose Hitler's "German Church" over the Confessing Church that was clinging to Christ. Bonhoeffer is one of Germany's greatest heroes. Who will we follow in our day? I'm so grateful Jesus didn't say, "Follow my people." No, He said "**Follow Me**" ([Matt. 4:19](#)).

Who will we follow? Some ask: Is God on America's side today? Well, **He is for those living in every nation.** He is pulling for every one of us and each of us do have a choice to make regarding His Son. **What America really needs is spiritual renewal and powerful awakening more than any experienced or less than experienced politician!** Therefore my question is: Are Americans on God's side? The answer: [You can be](#) ..as of today!

Do you have a prayer request? Would you like to share with us what God is doing in your life? [Contact](#) us today!

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