

"Nothing Is Certain Except Death & Taxes"

Taxes

Mark 12:13-17, Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17,
Philippians 3:17-21

- Heaven will be a **THEOCRACY**,
not a **DEMOCRACY**.
- One of our **CITIZENSHIPS** *WILL* always
TRUMP the other.
- How we **DISPLAY** our **PASSIONS** is far more
important than what our **PASSIONS** are.
- Choose to die on the **HILL** that **JESUS** chose.

Death

Mark 12:18-27, Deuteronomy 25:5-10, 1 Corinthians 2:9, Romans 8:38-39

Since the afterlife is real:

- Our hope of heaven **TRUMPS** the
HYPE of today.
- Heaven will be far **GREATER** than
whatever your **GREATEST** is now.

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of September 29, 2019

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. What images, ideas or mental pictures did you have of heaven when you were in grade school?

In what ways has your image of heaven changed over the years?

2. Chris talked about how we promote or display our passions for things that interest us. Politics aside, what is something that you're passionate about now or have been at some time in your life?

Was there anything your parents or primary caregivers were really passionate about (besides politics) like a sports team or a hobby when you were growing up? If so, how did you relate to their high level of passion?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. One of the results of living in a country that enjoys as much freedom as we do is the right to have different opinions. We can be passionate about a sports team, health, finances, business and our political affiliations. We are free to express our opinions, but as followers of Jesus we need to be careful to do so in a way that is respectful and loving. How could the following verses help shape how we communicate with those we disagree with?

James 1:26-27 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 3:9-12 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Proverbs 15:1 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Psalms 19:14 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Which of these is the most challenging for you to remember? Explain why you picked that passage.

2. As Christians we hold dual citizenship – we’re citizens of a specific country and citizens of heaven (see Philippians 3:20). We are called to live out our earthly citizenship in a way that reflects our heavenly citizenship. What insights do you see in Romans 13:1-7 about how we are to conduct ourselves as citizens of the United States, no matter which political party is in the majority?

Philippians 3:20 New International Version (NIV)

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 13:1-7 New International Version (NIV)

Submission to Governing Authorities

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

How could you reconcile Paul's teaching here about our citizenship responsibilities with the response of the Apostles to governmental authority in Acts 4:18-20 and Acts 5:25-29?

Acts 4:18-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰ As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 5:25-29 New International Version (NIV)

²⁵ Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." ²⁶ At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!

3. As we heard from Chris this weekend, we are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) which means we all have intrinsic value and worth. Many people struggle with believing they are valuable to God and loved by Him. What do you learn about our value and worth from the passages below?

Psalms 8:1-9 New International Version (NIV)

For the director of music. According to gittith.^[a] A psalm of David.

¹ Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory

in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants

you have established a stronghold against your enemies,

to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens,

the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars,

which you have set in place,

⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,

human beings that you care for them?[c]

⁵ You have made them[d] a little lower than the angels[e]

and crowned them[f] with glory and honor.

⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;

you put everything under their[g] feet:
⁷ all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
⁸ the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
⁹ Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 139:13-18 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts,^[a] God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

Given the teaching in these passages, why do you think Christians still struggle with this?

Have you ever struggled with your value and worth?

How could you use the passages above to help someone who is struggling to understand their value and worth?

TAKING IT HOME

Which point from this weekend's message or Life Group study is most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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REAL MAN WEEKEND – “The Palomar Experience” - Oct. 25-27

Lookin' for some crazy guy stuff to do? Want to kick back or get refocused on God? Join us for another epic men's weekend that will get you recharged and refreshed as **Chris Brown** leads us into a look at what a real man is and isn't! The weekend will also include plenty of “man” event options like paintball, high ropes course, skeet shooting, archery, zipline, horseback riding, etc. Space is limited so don't delay! Room Options: \$155-\$199
Register online at northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend



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Community Service is a ministry of North Coast Church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out NorthCoastCommunityService.org