



Christian Citizenship

“You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world” (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God’s kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God’s Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the “public square” with our message of Christ’s mercy for all. Please pray for God’s will to be done... in Jesus’ name.

The Perfect Storm

“Revolutions begin,” writes Steve Jalsevac, “when the public become sufficiently indoctrinated with irrational ideologies to the point that they can be convinced to accept and praise otherwise insane political, social and economic changes.”

Jalsevac is the co-founder and president of *LifeSiteNews*, a pro-life and family on-line news source. He has been watching the gathering clouds of what some might call a perfect storm. In mid-January, to prepare his board and staff for the year 2020, Jalsevac listed the following as topics and ideologies that pro-life and family Christians should be alert to: extensive new controls on Internet freedom, suppression of religious freedom, liberal support for Socialism (in spite of its failures worldwide), the Global Education Pact (scheduled to meet this year), the increasing push to respond to climate change, and world governance or New World Order (NWO).

Added to all of this is the 2020 Presidential Election. Jalsevac observes that the most significant of President Trump’s promises have been his “many pro-life statements and actions as well as his withdrawal of the United States from the globalist’s central, New World Order Paris Climate Accord. That latter action was an incredibly gutsy move with almost all the other G20 nations putting heavy pressure on Trump to concede.” Jalsevac explains that “Trump has been more actively pro-life than we ever expected [but] unfortunately, on abortion defunding, he was blocked time and again, especially by both Democrat and Republican globalists.”

Jalsevac writes, “I could not have imagined Pope Francis would have gone as far as he has into

pantheism and idolatry . . . calling all religions as being willed by God. He has frequently met and consulted with numerous, world-leading anti-life, New World Order globalists in the Vatican.”

Then came a virus from China that spread around the world. Pope Francis, writes Jalsevac, has proclaimed the coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic is a result of nature “having a fit” over man’s harm to the environment and “nature’s response” to “environmental damage.”

Jalsevac notes that Joe Biden has a similar worldview. Biden recently proclaimed that COVID-19 is “an opportunity to fundamentally change the science relating to global warming”. *LifeSiteNews* reported on April 17 that Biden stated that a Biden presidency would lead to far-reaching changes to the American way of life. “I think we have an opportunity now to significantly change the mindset of the American people,” Biden said.

Jalsevac, like most of us, does not take this virus lightly. “It is very concerning,” he says, “and not fully understood. People with underlying health conditions need special protections.” But rather than being captive to fear, we need to ask questions. For example, those who lean toward a global or new world order “have even gone so far as to appear to not want a quick solution to the virus by ridiculing and trying to stop promising treatments already saving the lives of many infected patients.” (Source: “Are globalists using coronavirus crisis as battering ram to destroy, remake world order?” by Steve Jalsevac, www.lifesitenews.com, 4-17-20.)

During this virus pandemic, global population control proponents such as Bill and Melinda Gates, the United Nations, and the World Health Organization advise against returning to our everyday lives until a vaccine is available sometime in the future. In the meantime, access to abortions is considered “essential.”

There have always been individuals and groups that “do not honor God” and are “futile in their thinking” (Romans 1:21). With proud haughtiness,

they are always ready to seize the moment and advance their foolish and dangerous thinking.

What can we do?

We can watch the video "Coronavirus: Globalism's Perfect Storm - Trumping the Gates of Hell" (https://youtu.be/qG33IKaX_yM) narrated by Michael J. Matt. Matt is the editor of Minnesota-based Remnant Newspaper and TV which fights against the errors of the Catholic Church and is not ashamed to call out Pope Francis. We can remember that when Jesus was tempted by Satan, our Lord replied, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve'" (Matthew 4:10). We can understand this: "In the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud arrogant, abusive . . . unholy . . . without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit" (2 Timothy 3:1-5). We are to "avoid such people." We do not need to be consumed by doom and gloom but can remember that historically people who oppose God are desperate and overreaching. We do not need to be captive to fear but with eyes on Christ we can live the days given to us.

Please pray for discernment, vigilance, and God's will to be done... in Jesus' name.

Churches, Government & COVID

John Harding, with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), writes, "Global pandemic does not erase our constitutional rights. It is important for government officials to understand that their authority has limits, and those limits are found primarily in the original meaning of the U.S. Constitution. When those limits are ignored, we as citizens must request that courts keep government officials in check. In the past few weeks, as officials attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19, some have overstepped their authority. At times, these officials quickly course-correct after learning the unintended consequences of their orders. Some have taken prodding from ADF letters to set the record—and the law—straight. Others continue to violate the First Amendment, particularly when it comes to regulations placed on churches. Churches facing unjust discrimination have

rightfully stood firm, reminding officials that they are bound to uphold the law of the land—the Constitution. We at ADF have had the privilege of representing several such churches in their lawsuits." (www.adflegal.org)

What can we do?

Visit Alliance Defending Freedom to find resources for your congregation. Familiarize yourself with their Church Alliance Legal Membership Program. Download their *COVID19 Reopening Resource*.

Please pray for the Body of Christ... in Jesus' name.

Keep Calm and Carry On

This season of COVID is unlike anything we've ever known. We wonder about tomorrow and the "what ifs." There are conflicting articles and videos floating around. We are having to learn and discern the hard way. We may feel vulnerable and helpless. This can lead to fear, frustration, and anger. Focusing on what we cannot do anything about is paralyzing. But remembering who we are as Christians means that we have things we *can* do. Many of you are doing those things. You are honoring your parents, fathering and mothering your children, being kind to your neighbors, praying and studying God's Word, making your homes a safe and welcoming haven, dialoguing with and encouraging friends, working as you are able, worshiping, and staying faithful no matter what turmoil there is around us. This is what Christians can do in every season—both familiar and strange.

What can we do?

Dust off your *Small Catechism* and turn to the Table of Duties. See that no matter what is happening in this world, you are a husband or wife, son or daughter, pastor, worker, or neighbor who is called to glorify God. In all seasons, we are to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Your God" (Micah 6:8).

Please pray the prayer taught by our Lord... in Jesus' name.

