

But Peter and John answered and said to them,
“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen
to you more than to God, you judge.
For we cannot but speak the things which
we have seen and heard.”

Acts 4:19-20

Some Recent History

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Along with Bonhoeffer, he was the founder of the
Confessing Church in 1933.

This was in response to the Protestant Reich Church
(the German Evangelical Church) and the inclusion
of the Aryan Paragraph.

The Aryan Paragraph

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1. The removal of all pastors unsympathetic with National Socialism.

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2. The expulsion of members of Jewish descent.
3. The implementation of the Aryan Paragraph church-wide.
4. The removal of the Old Testament from the Bible.

The Aryan Paragraph

5. The removal of “non-German” elements from religious services.

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6. The adoption of a more “heroic” and “positive” interpretation of Jesus, who in pro-Aryan fashion should be portrayed to be battling mightily against corrupt Jewish influences.

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“They First Came...”

They First Came...

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First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak
out—

They First Came...

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a socialist.

They First Came...

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—

They First Came...

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.

They First Came...

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—

They First Came...

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— because I was not a Jew.

They First Came...

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—

They First Came...

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—
and there was no one left to speak out for me.

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In a speech for the Confessing Church in Frankfurt on January 6, 1946, Niemöller confesses the following:

The people who were put in the camps then were Communists. Who cared about them? We knew it, it was printed in the newspapers. Who raised their voice, maybe the Confessing Church? We thought, “Communists, those opponents of religion, those enemies of Christians—
‘Should I be my brother's keeper’?”

Then they got rid of the sick, the so-called incurables. I remember a conversation I had with a person who claimed to be a Christian. He said, “Perhaps it's right, these incurably sick people just cost the state money, they are just a burden to themselves and to others. Isn't it best for all concerned if they are taken out of the middle [of society]?” Only then did the church as such take note.

Then we started talking, until our voices were
again silenced in public.

Can we say, we aren't guilty and responsible?

The persecution of the Jews, the way we treated the occupied countries, or the things in Greece, in Poland, in Czechoslovakia or in Holland, that were written in the newspapers.

I believe, we Confessing Church Christians have every reason to say, “mea culpa, mea culpa (through my fault)!” We can talk ourselves out of it with the excuse that it would have cost me my head if I had spoken out.

We preferred to keep silent. We are certainly not without guilt or fault, and I ask myself again and again, what would have happened, if in the year 1933 or 1934— there must have been a possibility— if 14,000 Protestant pastors and all Protestant communities in Germany had defended the truth until their deaths? If we had said back then, it is not right when Hermann Göring simply puts 100,000 Communists in the concentration camps, in order to let them die?

I can imagine that perhaps 30,000 to 40,000 Protestant Christians would have had their heads cut off, but I can also imagine that we would have rescued 30–40,000 million people, because that is what it is costing us now.

There is a cost for doing nothing.

Ronald Reagan



Ronald Reagan

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“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. The only way they can inherit the freedom we have known is if we fight for it, protect it, defend it, and then hand it to them with the well fought lessons of how they in their lifetime must do the same. And if you and I don’t do this, then you and I may well spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it once was like in America when men were free.”

Ronald Reagan

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“Government’s first duty is to protect the people,
not run their lives.”

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And finally...

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“Freedom only comes once to a people.

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“Government’s first duty is to protect the people,
not run their lives.”

And finally...

“Freedom only comes once to a people.
And those in world history who have known freedom
and then lost it, have never known it again.”

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4. To Always Give Thanks - 1 Thessalonians 5:18
5. To Submit to the Authorities of Man –
1 Peter 2:13-15

Back to Acts

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Today we will answer the following questions about the fifth will of God for everyone.

The Will of God

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

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What is the difference between a just or unjust law?

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

Five, to Submit to Governmental Authority

How does this command relate to the Covid
mandate and coming passport?

What is the difference between a just or unjust law?

And does it even matter to a believer?

The Will of God

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Are there ever any exceptions to submission
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Are there ever any exceptions to submission
to governmental authority?

Or does this apply in all cultures and at all times,
such as during the holocaust in Nazi Germany
or in our country today?

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

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Why did Peter and John refuse to submit to the governmental order to stop preaching or teaching in the name of Jesus in Acts 4:18-20?

Were they wrong?

The Will of God

The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

Five, to Submit to Governmental Authority

Why did Peter and John refuse to submit to the governmental order to stop preaching or teaching in the name of Jesus in Acts 4:18-20?

Were they wrong?

Or is there another principle at play here?

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And if so, what is that principle?

How are we to determine if obeying God means disobeying our authorities?

And how is that being played out in our nation, and the church, today?

1 Peter 2:13-15

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Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

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Let's begin by looking at the "therefore."

1 Peter 2:11-12

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Beloved, I beg you as sojourners (alien, temporary dweller, one who dwells in a foreign country) and pilgrims (stranger, foreigner, visitor) abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul (*psuché*), having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they (Gentiles) speak against you as evildoers, they (Gentiles) may, (how) by your good works which they (Gentiles) observe, glorify God in the day of visitation (when God visits man for either blessing or judgment).

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For this is the will of God, that by doing good (what) you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

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Romans 13:1-4

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Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.

For there is no authority except from God,
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The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the
rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:1

Romans 13:2

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Therefore (since God is sovereign regarding governing authorities) whoever resists (*antitássō* – to set an army against, to arrange in battle order, to go to war against) the authority resists (*anthístēmi* – to stand against in both deed or word) the ordinance of God, and those who resist (*anthístēmi*) will bring judgment on themselves.

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Romans 13:3

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For rulers are not a terror to good (*agathós* - excellent, best, upright, virtuous) works, but to evil (*kakós* – wicked, vicious, bad in heart and character).

Do you want to be unafraid of the authority?

Do what is good (*agathós*), and you will have praise from the same.

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And what if what the government says is good is actually evil in the eyes of God?

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And what if what the government says is good is actually evil in the eyes of God?

Who do we obey?

Romans 13:4

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For he is God's minister (*diákonos* – servant, one who runs in the dust) to you for good (*agathós*). But if you do evil (*kakós*), be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister (*diákonos*), an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil (*kakós*).

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But what are we to do when God's minister compels us to do evil in the sight of God?

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But what are we to do when God's minister compels us to do evil in the sight of God?

What if God's intention is turned upside-down?

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What if good is deemed evil by our God-ordained authorities and evil is declared as good?

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What if good is deemed evil by our God-ordained authorities and evil is declared as good?

Whom do we follow?

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What if good is deemed evil by our God-ordained authorities and evil is declared as good?

Whom do we follow? And how?

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And at what costs?

The Question

The Question

What does the Bible say about COVID vaccines
and mandatory passports?

The Question

What does the Bible say about COVID vaccines
and mandatory passports?

Answer:

The Question

What does the Bible say about COVID vaccines
and mandatory passports?

Answer: Nothing

The Question

What does the Bible say about COVID vaccines and mandatory passports?

Answer: Nothing

What does the Bible say about standing for (protecting) those who cannot stand for themselves?

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The Question

What does the Bible say about COVID vaccines and mandatory passports?

Answer: Nothing

What does the Bible say about standing for (protecting) those who cannot stand for themselves?

Answer: Much

Standing for Others

Standing for Others

If you faint (sink, relax, become slack or limp) in the day of adversity (trouble, distress, anguish, affliction, oppression), your strength (power, might, influence, ability) is small.

Proverbs 24:10

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But what are we to do?

Standing for Others

If you faint (sink, relax, become slack or limp) in the day of adversity (trouble, distress, anguish, affliction, oppression), your strength (power, might, influence, ability) is small.

Proverbs 24:10

But what are we to do?

What does God require of each of us?

Standing for Others

Standing for Others

Deliver (to rescue, to free from harm or evil, to snatch away to safety) those who are drawn (to grasp, take, or seize by an outside force) toward death, and hold back (to restrain, to refrain, to keep one from doing something), those stumbling (to move without being stable, to waver, to cause to be shaken in one's resolve) to the slaughter (an event that causes someone to die).

Proverbs 24:11

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Deliver (to rescue, to free from harm or evil, to snatch away to safety) those who are drawn (to grasp, take, or seize by an outside force) toward death, and hold back (to restrain, to refrain, to keep one from doing something), those stumbling (to move without being stable, to waver, to cause to be shaken in one's resolve) to the slaughter (an event that causes someone to die).

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Proverbs 24:11

Standing for Others

Standing for Others

But what can I do?

Standing for Others

But what can I do?

What if I lose my friends or my job?

Standing for Others

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Maybe I should wait until somebody else takes the lead and then, if things go well, maybe I'll join?

Standing for Others

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What if I lose my friends or my job?

Maybe I should wait until somebody else takes the lead and then, if things go well, maybe I'll join?

Plus, it's really not all that bad.

Standing for Others

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Maybe I should wait until somebody else takes the lead and then, if things go well, maybe I'll join?

Plus, it's really not all that bad.

After all, it's just a job...

Standing for Others

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Plus, it's really not all that bad.

After all, it's just a job... coerced via a mandate from a single man,

Standing for Others

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What if I lose my friends or my job?

Maybe I should wait until somebody else takes the lead and then, if things go well, maybe I'll join?

Plus, it's really not all that bad.

After all, it's just a jab... coerced via a mandate from a single man, not passed as law by Congress nor deemed constitutional by the Supreme Court,

Standing for Others

But what can I do?

What if I lose my friends or my job?

Maybe I should wait until somebody else takes the lead and then, if things go well, maybe I'll join?

Plus, it's really not all that bad.

After all, it's just a jab... coerced via a mandate from a single man, not passed as law by Congress nor deemed constitutional by the Supreme Court, and now required for children as young as five.

Standing for Others

Standing for Others

I'm sure God will understand if I stay silent
and do nothing.

Standing for Others

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and do nothing.

After all, I have a family to support, a business to run,
I have responsibilities, bills to pay, and much to lose.

Standing for Others

I'm sure God will understand if I stay silent
and do nothing.

After all, I have a family to support, a business to run,
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Surely God doesn't require this of me?

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(You obviously haven't done your homework.)

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(You obviously haven't done your homework.)

Read the next verse and see if you feel the same.

Standing for Others

Standing for Others

Proverbs 24:12a

Standing for Others

Excuse:

Proverbs 24:12a

Standing for Others

Excuse:

Answer:

Proverbs 24:12a

Standing for Others

Excuse: If you say, “Surely we did not know (*yāda*’ – same as *ginóskō* in the Greek) this,”

Answer:

Proverbs 24:12a

Standing for Others

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Standing for Others

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Answer:

Proverbs 24:12a

Standing for Others

Excuse: If you say, “Surely we did not know (*yāda*’ – same as *ginóskō* in the Greek) **this**,”

Answer: Does not He (God) who weighs (to examine actions as a process of moral evaluation, to form a critical opinion of something) the hearts (*lēb* – the seat of one’s inner nature) consider it (to discern, understand, to perceive, to consider diligently)?

Proverbs 24:12a

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Proverbs 24:12a

Standing for Others

Standing for Others

Proverbs 24:12b

Standing for Others

Answer:

Proverbs 24:12b

Standing for Others

Answer:

Promise:

Proverbs 24:12b

Standing for Others

Answer: He who keeps (to guard, watch, observe, preserve) your soul (the part of a person that thinks, feels, wills, and desires), does He (God) not know (*yāda*) it?

Promise:

Proverbs 24:12b

Standing for Others

Answer: **He who keeps** (to guard, watch, observe, preserve) your soul (the part of a person that thinks, feels, wills, and desires), does He (God) not know (*yāda*) it?

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Promise: And will He (God) not render (to give recompense for someone's behavior or action, either good or bad) to each man (personal – add your name) according to his deeds?

Proverbs 24:12b

Standing for Others

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Proverbs 24:12b

Our Heroes

Our Heroes

Why are our Biblical heroes our heroes?

Our Heroes

Why are our Biblical heroes our heroes?

What did most of them do to become heroes?

Our Heroes

Why are our Biblical heroes our heroes?

What did most of them do to become heroes?

And what can we learn from their lives?

Our Heroes

Why are our Biblical heroes our heroes?

What did most of them do to become heroes?

And what can we learn from their lives?

Consider the following:

Our Heroes

Our Heroes

The Hebrew Midwives – Exodus 1:17, 20-21

Our Heroes

The Hebrew Midwives – Exodus 1:17, 20-21

Rahab – Joshua 2

Our Heroes

The Hebrew Midwives – Exodus 1:17, 20-21

Rahab – Joshua 2

Saul, Jonathan, and the People – 1 Samuel 14:45

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Rahab – Joshua 2

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Obadiah and Jezebel – 1 Kings 18

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Obadiah and Jezebel – 1 Kings 18

Jehosheba and Joash – 2 Kings 11

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The Hebrew Midwives – Exodus 1:17, 20-21

Rahab – Joshua 2

Saul, Jonathan, and the People – 1 Samuel 14:45

Obadiah and Jezebel – 1 Kings 18

Jehosheba and Joash – 2 Kings 11

Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego – Daniel 3

Our Heroes

The Hebrew Midwives – Exodus 1:17, 20-21

Rahab – Joshua 2

Saul, Jonathan, and the People – 1 Samuel 14:45

Obadiah and Jezebel – 1 Kings 18

Jehosheba and Joash – 2 Kings 11

Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego – Daniel 3

Peter and John – Acts 4 and 5

Our Heroes

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Peter and John – Acts 4 and 5

Antichrist and his image – Revelation 13

Our Options

Our Options

The Anarchist

Our Options

The Anarchist

The Extreme Patriot (Nuremburg Trials)

Our Options

The Anarchist

The Extreme Patriot (Nuremburg Trials)

The Position of Scripture

Our Options

Our Options

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Our Options

The Position of Scripture

The position the Scriptures uphold is one of biblical submission, with a Christian being allowed to act in civil disobedience to the government if it commands evil, such that it requires a Christian to act in a manner that is contrary to the clear teachings and requirements of God's Word.

Our Options

But you must do something.

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After all,

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“All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.”

Edmond Burke

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And Christians are, by definition, the good men.

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And Christians are, by definition, the good men.

We are to be salt and light in this dark world.

One Final Reminder

One Final Reminder

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—
and there was no one left to speak out for me.

