### **SERMON NOTES**

Sunday, July 1, 2012

#### "<u>POLITICALLY SPEAKING</u>" (Acts 23-24)

Throughout the Bible we find the people of God in contact with governing officials and authorities. Paul the Apostle of Jesus Christ had several opportunities to interact with prominent officials. What is the relationship between the sacred and the secular; the spiritual and the political?

"Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:18-20, NIV).

1. Christians should seek to be \_\_\_\_\_\_(23:1).

2. Christians should guard \_\_\_\_\_\_(23:1).

3. Christians should be \_\_\_\_\_\_(23:3).

4. Christians should show \_\_\_\_\_\_(23:5).

5. Christians should engage with the \_\_\_\_\_\_(23:6).

6. Christians should place their faith in \_\_\_\_\_ (23:11).

7. Christians should have confidence \_\_\_\_\_\_(23:30).

8. Christians should keep the \_\_\_\_\_\_ (24:24).

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"Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles" (Acts 22:21, ESV).

"But on the next day, wishing to know for certain why he had been accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Council to assemble, and brought Paul down and set him before them" (Acts 22:30, NASB).

### 1. Christians should seek to be cordial in their discourse (23:1).

"Speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15, NLT).

"There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (Proverbs 12:18, ESV).

# 2. Christians should guard their own testimony (23:1).

## 3. Christians should be informed (23:3).

#### 4. Christians should show respect to authority (23:5).

"Let his days be few; Let another take his office" (Psalm 109:8, NASB).

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king" (1 Peter 2:13-17, NASB).

"And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard'" (Acts 4:18-20, NASB).

5. Christians should engage with the <u>political system</u> (23:6).

6. Christians should place their faith in God not politics (23:11).

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20, NLT).

7. Christians should have confidence <u>they have rights too</u> (23:30).

8. Christians should keep the <u>focus on Jesus</u> (24:24).