



# THE APOLOGIST

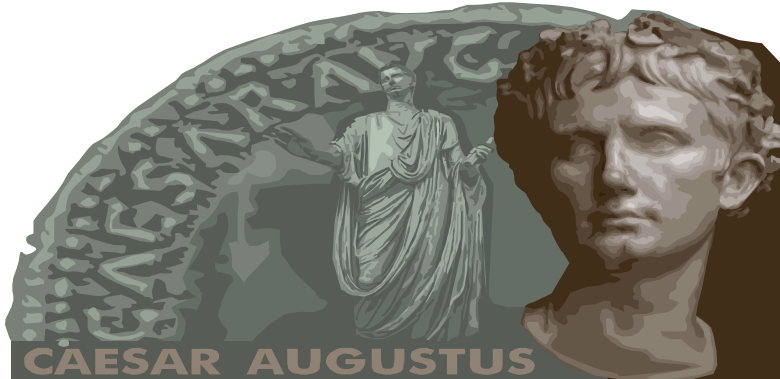
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And  
Faithful Steward Ministries Women's Outreach

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## Proclaiming Fundamental Biblical Doctrines Without Worldly Compromise



*Tell us therefore, what thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give  
tribute unto Caesar, or not?*

*But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, **why  
tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?***

***Shew me the tribute money, and they brought unto  
him a penny.***

***And he saith unto them, whose is this image and su-  
perscription?***

***They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them,  
Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are  
Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.***

**Matthew 22: 17-21**

FSM and FSMWO stands firm on the fundamental doctrines of the Word of God. We believe all who presents themselves as servants of the Lord should be **READY AND ABLE** to declare unto all who ask the foundational beliefs, principles or tenants of their faith (1 Peter 3:15)

### **Ministry Update**

On October 13th, Mike will be leaving for Lakeshore MS for an extended stay. It is our (Mike & Naida's) conviction that God would have us move to MS and join the work there. We are truly stepping out in faith, as we have been promised less than half the support we hope to raise and our home in MA still has not sold. The ministry will continue as usual no changes yet in mailing address or contact information. Please pray for all our needs in this matter.

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**MINISTRY STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**THERE IS ONE TRUE GOD IN THE FORM OF THREE PERSONS  
FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT**

Co-equal in deity, power and sovereignty  
Gen 1:1; Matt 3:16-18

**THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD**

Verbally inspired every word without exception by the Holy Spirit  
Is 40:8; 2 Tim 3:16

**SALVATION IS ETERNAL THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS ALONE**

It is only by the GRACE OF GOD that we are called to FAITH through the conviction of the HOLY SPIRIT  
Deut.10:14 - Deut.10:15; Matt.24:22 - Matt.24:24; Matt.24:31 - Matt.24:31;  
John.6:37 - John.6:39; Rom.8:28 - Rom.8:33; Rom.9:11 - Rom.9:13, 16; Ephesians 2:8-9

**THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS ALL BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS**

Gen 41:38; Rom 8:9-14

**HEAVEN AND HELL ARE LITERAL (REAL) PLACES RESERVED FOR  
ETERNITY FOR THE SAVED AND DAMNED**

Deut 26:15; Matt 25:41

**BELIEVERS ARE COMMANDED TO, AND OBLIGATED TO WITNESS/SHARE THE  
GOSPEL**

Is 6:1-8; Matt 28:18-20

**THERE IS ONE CHURCH, WITH CHRIST AS THE HEAD, WITH BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS AS THE BODY AND THE COMMAND TO FELLOWSHIP THEREIN**

2 Chron 5: 1-6; Heb 10:25

**BELIEVERS ARE COMMANDED TO SEPARATE FROM  
ALL WORLDLY INFLUENCES**

Ps 1:1; 2 Thess 3:6,14

**PRAYER IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR GROWTH IN FAITH  
AND THE DUTY OF BELIEVERS ON BEHALF OF OTHERS**

Is 55:6; Matt 7:7 - 1Sam 12:23; 1 Tim 2:1

**THE APOLOGIST**

Editor in Chief:	The Holy Spirit
Director:	Mike Poirier
Women's Outreach-Director:	Mrs. Stephanie Tarrant
Secretary/Treasurer:	Mrs. Pam Warren
Office Support:	Naida Poirier
Advisors:	Bob Marquis- New Beginnings Ministry; Pastor Steven Graham- Pioneer Valley Baptist Chapel
<b>Contributing Writers:</b>	Leslie Culver

**WHY NOT YOU???**

**The mission of FSM is to “administer the Good News of Christ to those in bondage”. We minister to those recovering from addictions, inmates and ex-mates, our**

**SERVICES WE PROVIDE**

- Direct Correspondence with those in bondage via email, letters and telephone
- Bible Study Outlines on a variety of biblical topics
- Articles and Sermons on a variety of biblical topics
- Research and Answers to Bible questions and topics
- Quarterly Publication; The Apologist (email and postal to 36 states, nine foreign countries and our military in Iraq)
- Public education via speaking engagements and literature designed to educate the public on reentry of ex-offenders
- Limited Aftercare services: we will attempt to help those being released:
  - find a local Bible believing and preaching church,
  - locate employment resources,
  - Locate Group/Therapy (AA, NA, SOTP) in the area they plan on residing prior to release.
  - Review and make recommendations to their release plan
  - Provide direct support through a minimum of a weekly meeting or phone call (depending on where person resides) Note to the incarcerated

**Service's we do not provide:**

- We do not send money at any time for any reason to inmates or their families
- We do not send stamps into any institution
- We will provide a self addressed stamped envelope (only (1) One per letter sent) to those inmates who are indigent and who's institution's policy permits this. We require a letter from the Chaplain, Case Manager or other Facility staff on institutional letterhead to do this.
- We do not send books to institutions (We can provide a list of places to get a free Bible if requested)
- We do not forward mail for inmates
- We will accept inmate correspondence, art work and writings but can not copy and return them

**We are not a pen-pal hook up service; FSMWO is run by women for women only they do not correspond with men.**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

At first read the passage on our cover seems to be about the challenge of paying taxes. Really, me thinks there is much more to this. The hated "poll tax" was symbolic of Rome's authority over its conquered lands. One had to submit to Rome by paying homage via this tax.

The questioned posed to Jesus was supposed to trap him. If he simple said pay your taxes like good citizens , well the people would hate him. If he said do not pay homage to the government through taxes the Herodians had him at treason.

What Jesus says turns the trap back unto those challenging him, for He tells them the things of this world are deserving of honor paid with things made by man. God on the other hand is deserving of payment (as it were) only with things made of God. The coin bearing Caesar's image made by man, while man is made in the image of God.



Some 1743 years later this nation faced a similar challenge. The rule of King George III, was trying to impose "hated" taxes upon the American colony. The colonists found themselves in a very hard position. Most did not abdicate war with England, they would much rather have rendered unto "George" that which was his. But old Georgie wanted more He wanted above and beyond what was his due.

Of course you know the rest of the story, our forefathers saw no alternative and declared war on Great Britain. We won and The United States of America was formed. It was formed never forgetting the homage due and duties each individual had to the government and to God.

**Romans 13:1-7**

**Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.**

**<sup>2</sup>Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.**

**<sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:**

**<sup>4</sup>For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.**

**<sup>5</sup>Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.**

**<sup>6</sup>For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.**

**From the Reformation Study Bible** *Christians have a distinct rationale for an appropriate submission to the governing authorities: the recognition that God Himself is the source of government in society. Rebellion against the authority implies rebellion against God's ordinance. The state's authority is for society's benefit; this is its normal function, and Paul assumes it may be realized in practical terms even when governments are professedly non-Christian. Christian submission is a response of the conscience instructed by divine revelation. Because the task of government is divinely ordained and requires financial support, the Christian can pay taxes with a distinctive motive and understanding, as an element of devotion .*

So what about today in America. Is it really just that simple, pay your taxes and go to church and all will be well with the world? I am sorely afraid not!

As a Christian, one who cannot condone any compromise of God's word, my commitment, my duty, is clear. I know I have a responsibility to society, my neighbors and yes my government. To paraphrase Jesus; I will render unto them that which is due them. BUT, like Paul I understand my true duty is first and foremost to God. To call oneself a Christian means this can not be up for debate. **Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:13.**

You will note that nowhere is any allegiance to man mentioned. Christ first, always in all things. There can be no compromise on the issue.

Ok, so society from a Biblical Worldview is in Chaos. The vast majority of our leaders demonstrate little or no values or ethics of any kind let alone biblical ones. What is a believer to do? The final verse from Rom 13 I'd like to share is verse 7. It says: **Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.** Again maybe I am naïve but this seems simple enough. Those (individuals and groups) who are due tribute etc. should receive it. Those who do not deserve it do not. Take the government. There are many things that happen locally and nationally that I do not like and know do not align with God's word, so I don't have to pay taxes correct? DUMB DUH DUMB DUMB! Of course I have to pay taxes. If I can't find any good things my tax money goes to I probably have not looked hard enough.

So how can you as an individual render unto Caesar and still express your opinion, your distaste for where the country is headed. **VOTE!** I for one believe it is the duty of every Christian to vote. The government is empowered because God alone ordains it. But you have the privilege and honor to be able to shape how that government rules. VOTE, for the party not the man (this is not a H.S. popularity contest) that best aligns itself with biblical principles. Does the party believe in the sanctity of marriage, do they believe abortion is an abomination before God. Do they acknowledge God? Are they upholding the principles upon which this nation was founded? Did you know that up until the early 20th century even the US Supreme Court declared this to be a Christian Nation (One founded upon and committed to Christian principles (US vs Holy Trinity Church). How we have waived in so shorty a time.

**The following is an article that describes the Principles for Voting that every Christian should follow. I know many of our readers are incarcerated and can not vote. But you can read this become educated on how to vote and pass this information on to friends, family and maybe even a correctional officer or two .**

## Principles for Voting

from R.C. Sproul Sep 10, 2012



In Acts 14, Luke sets forth for us the events that took place on Paul's first missionary journey, a journey on which Barnabas accompanied him. We've seen this pattern emerge over and over again. The apostles would come into the synagogue or the public square known as the agora. They would proclaim the gospel openly. And there would always be some people who responded in faith by the power of the Holy Ghost while others in attendance would stand up in outright hostility and oppose them. Indeed, it was through great tribulation that the gospel bore fruit in places like Antioch and Iconium. And every day Paul and Barnabas were subjected to threats, insults, hostility and even physical danger. We can see how things degenerated to such a degree here in the latter part of chapter fourteen: the Jewish leadership actually convenes a kangaroo court and imposes the death penalty upon Paul! A rioting mob is gathered and begins to throw stones at Paul with deadly force. Paul is knocked down by the repeated blows to the face, arms, torso, and head. His would-be executors then drag him out of the city, leaving him for dead.

Now ladies and gentlemen we can't read that and say, "Ho-hum, isn't that interesting?" Passages like this speak to the truthfulness of the adage "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." These sorts of things happened to a multitude of Christians who did not recover as swiftly as Paul did on this occasion. Indeed, many in the Christian community of the first century became human torches in the gardens of Nero. Others were thrown into the arena to go



against professional gladiators, or to be fed to the lions while crazed emperors and a depraved public watched the spectacle with perverted glee. That's our history as Christians. And down through the ages every time the gospel has been preached openly in the public square, it has been met with some degree of hostility, violence and persecution. And no doubt such things continue in our day in various pockets of the world.

Now one of the things that I think about in terms of my own ministry is why I've never been cast into jail. Why has no one ever thrown a stone at me because of the boldness by which I preach the gospel? Well, I preach it in a safe zone, I suppose—a zone that has been declared something of a reservation. The church has been banished in our day from the public square, and a deal has been made. The deal goes something like this: If we confine our preaching and teaching to spiritual matters (matters of the world to come) and keep our mouths shut about what's going on all around us in the culture in which we live, then we will be protected by the powers that be. But if we venture off the reservation and intrude our opinions into the public square, then we will feel the full measure of the wrath of the culture and indeed of the government itself.

That government today perpetuates a myth which is totally ungrounded in American history. This myth is articulated every day under the rubric of the "separation of church and state". But I defy anybody in this room or in this nation to find such a concept anywhere in the Constitution of the United States of America or in the Declaration of Independence. The phrase originated in some private correspondence from the pen of Thomas Jefferson where he spoke of erecting a wall of separation but it never become part of the fabric of the law of this land historically. And I say today in our age that the concept of the separation of state and church that even Jefferson had in view in the 18th century has also been changed dramatically in its public understanding. What was meant in the 18th century even in the informal way in which Jefferson spoke of it was the division of labor between the church and the state. In other words, it is not the state's responsibility to do the ministry of the church and it is not the state's responsibility to preach the gospel or to administer

the sacrament. Those duties have been given to the church that God ordained and to the Christian ministers whom God has called and appointed. But on the other side of the coin God also instituted government for the safety and well being of the people who live in its midst. And the government has been assigned by God the responsibility of preserving, protecting and maintaining the sanctity of human life. The government has been ordained by God to protect those areas of life in the realm of common grace—blessings that God gives to all people—not just Jews or Christians or any other group. I'm referring to blessings such as the sanctity of marriage. That's why the church recognizes marriages that take place in the secular world. But it is God who ordains the state and before whom the state is ultimately responsible and to Whom it will be held accountable at the end of the age for how it exercised its responsibility.

A few years ago I was invited to give the address at the inaugural breakfast of the newly elected governor of the state of Florida. And on that occasion I said to the governor elect, "Good sir, today is your ordination day. You have received your mandate to govern not from the will of the people, but from almighty God, who Himself establishes government and calls you His minister, not the minister of the church, but His minister as a guardian of the affairs of the state. And I remind you that you will be judged by Him in how you carry out your duties." But in our time the separation of church and state has come to mean the separation of the state from God. It is one thing to say the state is not accountable to the church, it's another thing to say the state is not accountable to God. And when the state assumes its autonomy and declares its independence from Almighty God it is not just the right but the duty of the church to call the state to task: Not to ask the state to be the church, but to tell the state to be the state under God.

And that has been the task of the church throughout the ages, throughout the pages of the Old Testament and into the New. I know there are people in Christendom who believe that the church should never say anything about the public square or what happens in the political realm. But given our biblical history I wonder how anybody can come to that conclusion. You read the pages of the Old Testament and you read the history of the prophets. You see a

king like Ahab using the power of his secular authority to confiscate the personal private property of neighbors. And nobody says a word until Elijah risks his life to declare it unjust and call him to task. Isaiah was raised and anointed to go into the palace and speak to king after king after king, bringing God's criticism to the nation. Amos was the one who cried in the marketplace "let justice roll down like an ever-flowing stream." And for calling the culture of their day to righteousness every one of those prophets faced hostility, bodily harm, and death. Why was John the Baptist beheaded? Because he called attention to the immorality of the king, and the unjustness and illicit basis of his marriage. Jesus criticized Herod as well, calling him a fox. And when He called the nation of Israel to righteousness, corrected the Sanhedrin, and criticized the leading authorities and their corrupt practices, He was arrested and executed. He was not executed because he said, "Consider the lilies, how they spin." He was executed because He said, "Consider the thieves, how they steal."

Jesus took His message to the public square. But Uncle Sam has cut a deal with us, and here's the deal: They'll give you and I a tax exemption whereby we can deduct from our income taxes our tithes and offerings that we give to the church. But on one condition: that we not speak out on the political issues in our day. Ladies and Gentlemen that's a compromise that the church can never afford to make. I'm not allowed by law at this point to tell you who to vote for, to recommend or endorse a particular candidate, and I'm going to obey that law because I'm called to obey the civil magistrates even when I disagree with those civil magistrates. But at the same time I'm going to protest against that condition and say to the church if it means that we have to give up our tax deductions so be it. Because we shouldn't be giving our donations and charitable gifts to the church just so we can get a tax write-off. Our responsibility to tithe to the Kingdom of God is there whether we receive any benefit from the secular government or not. Surely we must all understand that. And I'm not going to tell you who to vote for, but I am going to tell you some things you should be concerned about when you go to the voting booth.

But here is what I'm going to tell you to do when you vote.

As a Christian you have obligations opposed upon your conscience that in some sense other people don't have, although they should have. And the first thing is this: You have to understand what a vote is. The word vote comes from the Latin *votum*, which means 'will' or choice. And when you go to the ballot box and you vote, you are not there to vote for what's going to benefit you necessarily. Your vote is not a license to impose your selfish desires upon the rest of the country. You only have the right to vote for what is right. And not only do you have the right to vote for what is right, but when you vote you have the duty to vote for what is right.

I'm reminded of the work of William Wilberforce in England. You may recall that in debate after debate after debate, and in election after election after election, Wilberforce was soundly and roundly defeated when he sought the abolition of slavery in the British Commonwealth. But if ever there was an exercise in perseverance, it was by Wilberforce. Wilberforce refused to give up. He simply would not walk away from being the conscience of the English nation. And he publicly testified that slavery was wrong and he promised to oppose it as long as he had breath in his body. And finally in the providence of God, Parliament woke up and abolished this unethical practice that was a plague on the English speaking world.

We've gone through the same plague in the history of America, and thanks be to God slavery has finally been abolished in America. But I believe that slavery is the second most serious ethical issue that our country has ever faced. From my perspective the **number one ethical issue** that this nation has ever faced is the issue of abortion. Abortion is not a matter of private choice—not for the Christian who understands anything about the sanctity of life. The first century church made it very clear in their day, explicitly stating that abortion is murder.

I've written over 70 books. The book that had the shortest shelf life of all of my books was my book on the case against abortion. I talked to pastor after pastor and sought to understand why they weren't using this material (for which we also made a video series). They told me, "Well, we agree with it but we can't do it in our church." And I said, "Why?" They responded: "It will split the congregation." And I said, "So be it!" A million and a

half unborn babies are slaughtered wantonly in the United States of America every year in the name of women's rights. If I know anything about the character of God after forty years of study, I know that God hates abortion. And I could never vote for a candidate who supported abortion—even if I agreed with that candidate on every other policy position. If he supported abortion I would not vote for him and I urge you to do the same.

I know that abortion is not the number one issue in this campaign because it has become acceptable. Just like slavery became acceptable. But it cannot be acceptable to ethical people. The people of God have to rise up and say 'NO'! We are not asking the state to be the church but we must say to the state, "Please be the state. God ordained you to protect, maintain, and preserve the sanctity of life, and you are not doing it." So that has to be on your mind when you walk into that voting booth.

And a **second ethical issue** that you need to keep in mind before you vote is this: Don't be a lobby group of one. I read in the Sentinel that they did a poll of athletes, asking them for whom they were going to vote. And one said it straight out. He said "I'm going to vote for the one who's going to give the most money away." How many times have you heard the phrase 'I'm going to vote my pocketbook'? I'm going to go to the trough of the public and drink as deeply as I can. Alexis de Tocqueville, when he came and examined the great American experiment of democracy, said two things can destroy this experiment: One is when people learn that their vote is worth money, that you can bribe people to get their vote or that you can use the vote to somehow shelter yourself from financial or other obligations imposed upon others. Have we taken the blindfold away from lady justice? Are we not all equal under the law?

On the contrary, we have an income tax structure today that is inherently unjust. We almost never hear anybody discuss this injustice. But when God set up a system of taxation, He did things differently. God said I'm going to impose a tax on my people and it's going to be ten percent from everybody: The rich man and the poor man are not going to pay the same amount. The rich man's going to pay much more than the poor man, but they're both going to pay the same percentage. They're both going to have the same

responsibility. That way the rich man can't use his power to exploit the poor man, saying, "I'm going to pay five percent, but you're going to pay fifty percent." The rich weren't allowed to do that. Nor were the poor allowed to say, "We're going to pay five percent and the rich are going to pay fifty percent because they can afford it." What that is ladies and gentlemen is the politics of envy that legalizes theft. Anytime you vote a tax on somebody else that is not a tax on yourself, you're stealing from your brother. And though the whole world does it and though it's common practice in the United States of America, a Christian shouldn't be caught dead voting to fill his own pocketbook at the expense of someone else. Isn't that plain? Isn't that clear? And until we get some kind of flat tax, we're going to have a politicized economy, we're going to have class warfare, and we're going to have the whole nation's rule being determined by the rush for economic advantage at the polls. Don't do it. Even if that means sacrificing some benefit you might receive from the federal government. Don't ask other people at the point of a gun to give you from their pockets what you don't have. That's sin.

It is, of course, the American way. But we Christians should not be involved in that sort of thing. Rather we should be voting for what is right, what is ethical. And our consciences on that score need to be informed by the Word of God, not by our wallets. And so I plead with you: When you enter the voting booth, don't leave your Christianity in the parking lot. And be bold to speak on these issues, even if it means somebody picks up a rock and throws it in your head. Because it is through tribulation that we enter the Kingdom of God. I pray for you, beloved, and for our nation in these days to come.

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/principles-for-voting/>



## Peace

*shared By Dave Marshall*

Peace, it does not mean to be in a place where there is no hard work, no noise or trouble. It means to be in the midst of these things and still be calm through the Lord.

.....  
: **Want to contribute to The Apologist? Send us your artwork, article**  
: **or poem , but please keep it brief.**  
: .....

## **Women's Outreach**

### **Have you lost all hope?**

Mrs. Stephanie Tarrant

Recently in Sunday school our class was discussing the following passage:

*Luke 7:36-50 (NKJV) 36 Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. 37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, 38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." 40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." 41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." 44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. 45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. 47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." 48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" 50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."*

As I was sitting in class, a thought crossed my mind that this passage is not new to me and I was kind of bored of it.

Immediately afterward, something changed in me. My thought process of the passage drifted away from the discussion on a path that had never occurred to me before and I would like to share that with you. But first let me share with you who this woman is and why she had lost all hope (a little background). It is thought by many that this woman is of "low report", which means she has a bad reputation. In verse 39 the Pharisee states "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." This woman is beyond hopeless, she is trapped in a lifestyle that covers her living expenses and she can't escape this for she is a sinner." This woman is beyond hopeless, she is trapped in a lifestyle that covers her living expenses and she can't escape this lifestyle because no one will help her because of the life she lives. I would say that is pretty hopeless. Then this woman hears stories about a man who gives hope to the hopeless. She sees miracles performed and I'm sure she realizes that if she is ever going to have hope then she needs to get to this man. So she goes to this man, Jesus. What does she have to lose? Some would say everything. I say nothing because everyone who knew her saw her as nothing. I say she had nothing to lose and so much to gain by going. I'm going to stop here for a minute and pause because there is a distinct difference in the emotions of women and men. I believe it is hard for men to truly understand this women's position on an emotional level. As a woman, I understand her emotions behind this event. Verse 37-38 shows this woman's emotions in the physical form. This woman knew in her heart that Jesus was different and that He would give her the hope that she so desperately needed. She not only found hope in Jesus but she also discovered love in Him. This woman who may never have been loved or may have never loved another, He was the first to show love to her. The act of anointing ones feet with oil and washing them with your tears is not something that can be done halfheartedly.

If you find yourself hopeless today, know that you will only find hope in Jesus Christ, but you have to go to Him and seek Him with all your heart. You have to believe that He is your only hope. Verse 47: Jesus says, "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."



## **Pastor's Page**

### **The Christian and the State**

Pastor Don Elbourne,  
Lakeshore Baptist Church, Lakeshore MS.

The moral fabric of America has worn so thin, you can see through to the nation's underwear. When confronted by the oncoming tanker truck of the Lord's wrath against a nation that forgets God, Christians have responded by swerving into the ditch of apathy or activism. Neither extreme provides a Biblical way forward.

Too many American Christians bemoan the moral direction of our nation while tubing down the river of complacency. For example, every four years Americans murder more unborn infants than the population of the entire state of Mississippi, yet the shocking statistic doesn't even motivate most churchgoers enough to pull a lever on election day. As someone once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Where are the men like Nathan the prophet, who swam upstream to confront the king with the authority of God's righteousness? (2 Samuel 12:1-12)

Others, inflamed by the gross immorality of our day, throw all their weight behind campaigns, rallies, movements, petitions, etc. all in the name of Christian activism. "God and Country" becomes the battle cry that drowns out the good news of the gospel. When allegiance to a platform sidelines the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ gets demoted to little more than a cute mascot for the political party. The psalmist warns us not to put our trust in princes. (Psalm 143:3) Some seem to think that the solution to America's problems can be solved by legislation or getting the right man in the White House. Folks in this camp tend to forget that in November, Americans will vote in a president, not a savior. We already have a savior.

So, if silent apathy and screaming activism will keep our tires spinning in the mud does a middle of the road solution exist? Sure, but here in Mississippi the only things you find in the middle of the road are a yellow stripes and dead skunks. Let's not go there. Instead a world view change directed by the word of God will set our feet on solid ground and heading in the right direction.

Jesus spoke directly to the Christian's responsibility and relationship to the state. When he said "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," he was not drawing a dichotomy. Jesus did not place the things that belong to Caesar on one side of the fence and the things that belong to God on the other side of the fence. Jesus stood firmly with the Holy Spirit inspired Psalmist who sang, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1) God owns everything and stands as ultimate King over it. He painted the sphere of the state underneath the broad umbrella of God's sovereign rule. "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will." (Proverbs 21:1) All earthly authority, including the state, exists as a derived authority under the supremacy of Christ. Both the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter echo the affirmation of Jesus as they call believers to submit to earthly authorities, honor those in government office, and to pray for the proper administration of justice. (Romans 13:1-7 & 1 Peter 2:12-19)

Before offering a "that was then this is now" objection, don't forget the historical context of the New Testament. Jesus, Peter, and Paul were not oblivious to the fact that Godless tyrants sat on the throne of their world. In a hostile environment they recognized the sovereignty of God over all things and the God given institution of the state. The same rock solid confidence empowered Old Testament saints as they "conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight... others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, and they were killed with the sword." (Hebrews 11)

A firm trust in the King of Kings and Lord of Lords will conquer our indifference and fuel our passion to see "justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24) At the same time, the mighty river of Christ's sovereign rule will pull our misplaced anchor out of the muddy bottom of political confidence. So, no matter what happens on November 5, 2012, let us rejoice, "The Lord reigns." (Psalm 99)

## **DEVOTIONALS**

**FROM DAYS OF PRAISE** Institute for Creation Research 1806 Royal Lane Dallas TX 75229 [www.irc.org](http://www.irc.org)

### **Election Day**

by John D. Morris, Ph.D.

“Thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens” ([Exodus 18:21](#)).

Can you imagine what would happen, if, as a result of this day's vote, the U.S. Congress, the state capitals, the city halls, the judicial chambers, the sheriffs' offices all across America were filled with “able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness”?

This is not the place to dwell on the fact that all too many office holders are just the opposite, drunk with power, swollen with pride, practicing deception, driven by greed, and motivated all too often by an antagonism toward Christianity. Nor is it the place to recollect the once-cherished freedoms which have been lost—particularly lost to Christians.

It is perhaps a time to remind and encourage each American reader to exercise the precious right to vote, voting especially for godly men and women who fit the above description, and to remind all readers to pray, not only for the elections, but also for those in office.

But from what source will these godly leaders come? “Train up a child in the way he should go” ([Proverbs 22:6](#)), the Bible tells us, implying more than training in truth and character. Parents should recognize, in their children, God-given aptitudes and desires, and then train the child to reach those God-ordained goals.

God chooses individuals to be pastors and missionaries, but He also chooses individuals to be policemen, or generals, or senators, or governors, or presidents. If Christians don't fill these posts, then non-Christians will—perhaps even anti-Christians.

Let us all recommit ourselves to being the salt and light He asked us to be. JDM

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

### **Please join us in praying for:**

Also Bi- weekly updates online at  
our Web site or Face Book page

Our President, and legislature, the courts

Christians to not be ashamed and get busy doing God's  
work

God's continuing providence for America as we are in a pe-  
riod of moral and ethical decay that is unprecedented in  
modern times

Pray for our Armed Forces everywhere

Our youth that they walk in the light of the Lord

Salvation for lost family, friends and those who oppose us

### **Missions and Missionary Friends**

**Angave Peoples Ministry** Papua New Guniea

**Anthony Kwadwo Okyere** a young evangelist in Ghana West Africa

**Camp Larga, Moldova** a Christian youth summer camp in Moldova

**The Harmon's** missionaries Puerto Rico for 18 years;

**Lakeshore Baptist Church in Lakeshore, Mississippi;** they have for  
over 6 years been on the forefront of the rebuilding of Hancock  
County MS after hurricane Katrina. Their needs are still

**The Messer's** (all 8 of them) missionaries to Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory  
Coast) Africa

**The Rivera's,** Ben and Becky with Campus Crusades for Christ

**Rev Varon and his family** in the Philippines

**The Tabb's,** Dan and Amy as they minister to youth in Ireland

**Wells of Salvation** - African Mission, East Otis, MA Bringing fresh wa-  
ter and the Gospel to Africa

Pray these and the many others serving God in the mis-  
sion fields will get the financial & prayer support they  
need

## **Our fellow ministries serving the incarcerated:**

**Amazing Grace Ministries**, Woburn, MA  
**Bethany Fellowship International**, Bloomington MN  
**Bluegrass Gospel Sing and Jam**, Belchertown, MA  
**Christian Pen-Pals**, Statesville, NC  
**Freedom through Christ Ministries**, Ft Lauderdale FL  
**Freedom Ministries**, Elizabethtown KY  
**J.A.R. Ministries**, Bay Saint Louis, MS  
**Jimmy Huff Ministries**, Colorado City TX  
**The Least of These Prison Ministries**, Gloucester City, NJ  
**Meet Her at The Gate Ministry**  
**Mbeya Prison Ministry**, Mbeya Tanzania  
**New Beginnings**, Malden MA  
**New England Prison Ministries**, Lowell MA  
**Prisons Mission Society” Pakistan:**  
**Robin's Song Inc.** ,Big Spring Texas  
**Set Free Ministries**, Easton MA  
**So Blessed Ministry**, Bakersfield CA  
**Spirit House Ministries** (For Women) Georgetown, TX  
**The Master's Female Prison Ministry**, Decatur, AL  
**True Freedom Outreach New Zealand**, Warkworth New Zealand  
Reaching out to the incarcerated in Egypt  
**Wells of Hope Prison Ministry**, Uganda  
**Wings of Faith Missions**, Tanuku India

## **The incarcerated everywhere for**

Health issues  
Financial needs  
Upcoming court cases  
Renewed family relationships  
Spiritual Growth  
Those they left behind at home

Prison Churches: Their leadership and the countless Christian volunteers serving the Lord in prisons; that they do so never compromising the Word of God.

## **NEVER FORGET THOSE SERVING OUR MILITARY**

**CPT Patrick Joyner and family, Navy Chaplain to USMC** -The Joyner family includes seven children, William – 17 yrs., Audrey – 15 yrs., Jordan – 15 yrs., Maggie – 12 yrs., Noah - 10 yrs., Laurel Anna – 6 yrs., and Mary M'Cheyne – 4 yrs.

### **The Veterans Coalition Ministries of Faith**

**Military Ministry** - Serving military members, veterans, and families across the globe

**Christian Military Fellowship (CMF)** supports United States military personnel and their families, worldwide

### **Special Requests form you our friends:**

**Lakeshore Baptist Church, Lakeshore MS.** Please pray all goes well and they can start construction of their new church (been w/o since Katrina) in January. Also pray the upcoming Men's Fellowship weekend is a blessing to all.

**Well of Hope Village, Uganda** Continue to pray for their financial needs as they proceed with build a safe Bible based sanctuary for homeless children of inmates.

**US Foreign Missions** On the heels of the horrific murder of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and members of the US consulate in Libya, please pray for the safety of all US citizens serving abroad. Our prayers continue to go out to the families of all those slain.

### **For this Ministry**

Financial Support to continue our work

Help from mature men in Christ to correspond with men on the inside

We will continue to service God for His Glory alone

That we'd hear from more of the 250 inmates and ex-mates who get this Publication

**Please contact us for more information about any of the ministries listed.**

## CONTACT US

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will partner in prayer for the needs listed this month

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will pray for Wisdom and financial blessing for this ministry

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will contribute to this ministry \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note we are not a recognized non-profit tax exempt organization. Your contributions may not be tax deductible.*

*Please Send information on:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Available Study Outlines
- \_\_\_\_\_ Available Articles and Sermons
- \_\_\_\_\_ Information on (Specify Topic)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Available lecture and forum topics

Other : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Note those requesting aftercare assistance should make every effort to contact us at least 6 months prior to expected date of release and preferably a year prior. We need that time to review your release plan and help facilitate your transition.

### **Send Requests to:**

**Faithful Steward Ministries and  
Faithful Steward Ministries Women's Outreach  
PO Box 424 Chicopee, MA 01021-0424**

Email's:

[directorfsms@gmail.com](mailto:directorfsms@gmail.com)  
[directorfsmwo@gmail.com](mailto:directorfsmwo@gmail.com)

### **OUR NEW BLOG/WEB SITE**

<http://fsmandfsmwo.org>

### **ON FACEBOOK**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faithful-Steward-Ministries-and-FSM-Women's-Outreach/178166535561150>

Member in good standing International Network of Prison Ministries:  
<http://prisonministry.net/fsms>



**1 Corinthians**

**4:1-2**

FAITHFUL STEWARD MINISTRIES  
and  
Faithful Steward Ministries Women's Outreach  
Po Box 424  
Chicopee, MA 01021-0424