

WHY WERE THE APOSTLES NON-POLITICAL? A Practical Summation (Part-ten of ten)

This relatively lengthy study has taken us all over the text of the New Testament from a variety of different angles and perspectives. I believe it's necessary to sum things up in a clear and practical manner so as to give everyone a big picture answer to that very significant question.

Practical Summation Point #1

The apostles were non-political because they correctly understood what Jesus taught them in Matthew 17:24-27; that in taking a non-offensive posture toward the governing authorities, it did NOT also mean making alliances with them for the building of Christ's Church.

Practical Summation Point #2

The apostles were non-political because when Jesus established the all-important distinction between their respective responsibilities to Caesar and to God in Matthew 22:21; they took that to mean that human government would have no role to play in the building of Christ's Church.

Practical Summation Point #3

The apostles were non-political because when Jesus told them to "go and make disciples of all the nations," in Matthew 28:18-20, in what has come to be known as the Great Commission; they understood that the building of Christ's Church would be a spiritual and not a political endeavor.

Practical Summation Point #4

The apostles were non-political because of their experience in being persecuted by the governing authorities in Jerusalem; who arrested and crucified their Savior; and vehemently opposed their efforts to preach the gospel, in the early stages of building Christ's Church (Acts 4:5-31; 5:17-42).

Practical Summation Point #5

The apostles were non-political because of Paul's prior experience as a governing authority who persecuted Christians to the fullest extent possible (Acts 8:3). After his conversion to Christ, he remained permanently on the right side of the line drawn by Christ in Matthew 22:21.

Practical Summation Point #6

The apostles were non-political because of Saul's opposition to the early church, in the ignorance of his unbelief (1 Timothy 1:13). Following his conversion, Paul understood that the wisdom of this world as expressed in human government, is incapable of comprehending the wisdom of the gospel, and incompatible with God's redemptive purpose in the building of Christ's Church.

Practical Summation Point #7

The apostles were non-political because, unlike the Corinthians, they knew that they could not have it both ways when it came to the world's wisdom and God's wisdom, if they were to be spiritually successful in the building of Christ's Church (1 Corinthians 3:10-20).

Practical Summation Point #8

The apostles were non-political because they were acutely aware of not falling in love with a world system that was secular, transient and headed in the wrong direction (1 John 2:15-17).

Practical Summation Point #9

The apostles were non-political because they did not misinterpret/misapply the admonition of our Savior in Matthew 5:13-16, in regard to being salt and light; and lived with a level of integrity above the corruption of this world system, for the purpose of effectively building Christ's Church.

Practical Summation Point #10

The apostles were non-political because they never allowed themselves to fall prey to "another gospel," whether social or political. Instead, they remained faithful to the eternal gospel, for the purpose of proclaiming forgiveness of sin and eternal life, through personal faith in Jesus Christ.