

## **WHY WERE THE APOSTLES NON-POLITICAL? (Part-six of a ten-part study)**

In last week's segment, we considered the admonition of the apostle John in 1 John 2:15-17. Those verses provide us with a contrast that is clear and to the point; encouraging us to shun a love for the world so that we can be completely free to live a life characterized by a love for God. That specific affirmation only confirms the larger emphasis of this study: the world system in which we live is diametrically opposed to the will of God in the building of Christ's Church. And nowhere is that incompatibility demonstrated more dramatically than in Revelation 11:15-18 –

**“Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.’ And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. And the nations were ENRAGED, (emphasis added) and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.’”**

All of these passages from Paul and John speak to us of the absolute disparity between the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God, the love of the world and a love for God, as well as the kingdom of this world and the kingdom of God. As the one kingdom is about to replace the other, the nations which comprise the world system in which we live become positively furious at the possibility of being supplanted by “the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.” The Greek word for “enraged” is “orgizo.” It speaks of the impulse of anger; of being moved to anger due to a circumstance that is taking place. But these nations consist of the people described in 1 John 2:15-17, some of whom occupy positions of authority in the governments which preside over those nations, which in turn make up the world system run by the devil and his demon host.

Can we begin to comprehend why the apostles were so strongly non-political? They possessed a deep and profound understanding of the difference between the spiritual kingdom which they were seeking to advance through the building of Christ's Church; and the secular kingdom of the nations in which they were required to function. The contrast could not be greater, between people headed in opposite eternal directions (1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17).

Of course, today's Christian political activists would point toward a major exception to that rule in the United States of America. They believe our founding fathers were all born-again, Bible-believing Christians. So, let's accept their assertion at face value. What level of wisdom did they possess when writing the Bill of Rights, especially this clause in the First Amendment? “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . .” It seems as if they too had a profound awareness regarding the Church Age; that no generation of Christians would be given a mandate for establishing a New Testament theocracy within a particular nation. Or were they flawed in their thinking for believing that the building of Christ's Church within this brand-new republic would NOT require the “help” of the United States government; but only its non-interference with a process known as “the free exercise thereof?”

In our next segment, we will begin to make a practical application of these principles taught to us by our Savior, as well as those of His first century servants, the apostles.