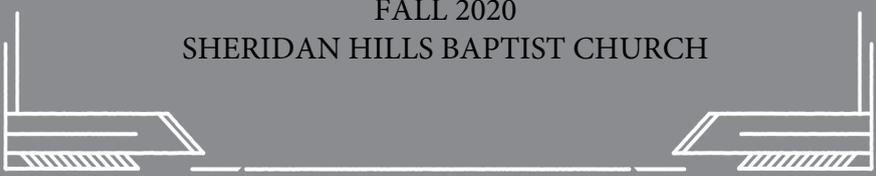


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SECRET CHURCH
FALL 2020
SHERIDAN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH



GOD, GOVERNMENT, AND THE GOSPEL

So Many Questions . . .

- How does God relate to government?
- How should Christians relate to government?
- Should we gladly submit to government, work to change government, or both, or neither?
- What if we don't agree with who the governing authorities are?
- What if we don't agree with how those authorities are governing?
- How does this apply to different types of governments in different parts of the world?
- How does this apply to Christians who are being persecuted under their government?
- Should Christians stay amidst persecution or flee from persecution?
- Is it ever right to disobey the government? If so, when?
- Should Christians work in government?
- What is justice, and how does it relate to government?
- How should a Christian in government decide what is a crime and what the punishment should be?
- Should all sin be a crime?
- If not, then what sin should (or should not) be a crime?
- Should Christians vote?
- If so, who should Christians vote for?
- What about situations where one candidate represents injustice X and the other candidate represents injustice Y?
- Should Christians align with political parties, positions, or personalities?
- If so, which party, position, or personality?
- What should Christians do when they disagree about political parties, positions, or candidates?
- Should churches exert any influence in politics?
- What does the separation of church and state mean?
- Is the United States a Christian nation?
- Is any country a Christian nation?
- Is there only one "Christian" position on political issues?

- Are some political issues more important than others?
- If so, is the level of political importance a matter of personal opinion?
- Should pastors preach about political issues?
- Should pastors endorse political candidates or parties?
- Should a Christian be for or against gun control, abortion, environmental protection, graduated or progressive tax rates based on income, same-sex marriage, capital punishment, immigration restrictions, nuclear weapons, tariffs, military spending, or universal health care?

So Many Considerations . . .

- **The Great Breadth of Issues.**
 - In _____ country.
 - Across _____ country.
- **The _____ of the issues.**
 - Moral variables.
 - Economic variables.
 - Physical variables.
 - Social variables.
 - Spiritual variables.
 - Competing goods.
 - Lesser _____.
 - Inevitable trade-offs.
 - Debatable co-belligerence.
- **The meaning of _____**
 - Liberal, Conservative, Progressive, Right Wing, Left Wing, Alt-Right, Alt-Left, Capitalism, Socialism, Marxism, Nationalism, Zionism, Ethnocentrism, Feminism, Judicial Activism, Systemic Racism, Social Justice, Identity Politics, Privilege, Amnesty, Illegal, Undocumented, Marriage, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Family Planning, Global Warming.
 - **Government:**
 - The organization through which a political unit exercises _____ and performs functions.

- **Politics:**
 - The process of _____ people, resources, power, decision-making, and decision-implementing in a political unit.

- **Christian:**
 - Bible-believing, gospel-embracing follower of Jesus.

- **Church (Universal):**
 - The body of Christ which includes Christians from every tribe, tongue, people, nation across time.

- **Church (Local):**
 - A group of baptized Christians who are _____ to being the body of Christ to one another by coming together regularly and carrying out the functions of a biblical church.
 - Biblical Preaching and Teaching, Biblical Prayer, Biblical Evangelism, Biblical Discipleship, Biblical Membership, Biblical Leadership, Biblical Fellowship, Biblical Accountability and Discipline, Biblical Worship, Biblical Ordinances, Biblical Giving, Biblical Mission.

- **The Flexibility of Language:**
 - For example, “*Is the United States a Christian nation?*”
 - Did many of the founders of the United States “generally” believe the Bible? _____.
 - Did Christian beliefs provide the foundation for many of the cultural values still held by many citizens of the United States today? _____.
 - Is Christianity of various sorts (broadly defined) the largest religion in the United States? _____.
 - Does the United States government promote Christianity as the national religion? Does a person have to profess Christian faith in order to become a citizen or have the rights of a citizen of the United States? _____
 - Are a majority of people in the United States Bible-believing, gospel-embracing followers of Jesus (i.e., Christians)? _____

- Is belief in Christian values the dominant perspective promoted by the government, the media, and universities in the United States today? _____.
- For example, “*Did God call {INSERT NAME} to be President/ Prime Minister/Leader of {INSERT NATION}?*”
 - Is God ultimately sovereign over any leader who governs any nation? _____.
 - Does God personally endorse every leader who governs every nation? _____.

• **The Challenges of Communication.**

- When we need sustained dialogue, we have _____.
- When we need thoughtful reasoning, we have emotional _____.
- When we need to listen first, we try to speak _____.

• **The Importance of _____.**

- Context: *The parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can cast light on its meaning.*
- Physical.
- Cultural.
- Social.
- Temporal.
- Spiritual.

• **The Understanding of the _____.**

- **Biblical covenant:** A binding _____ between two or more parties, with God as the guarantor and enforcer of the agreement.
- **Genesis 1–11:** God’s covenants with all humanity.

▪ **The _____ Covenant.**

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill

the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

Genesis 1:26–30

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 2:15–17

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

- A covenant of _____ grace.
- Obey and walk with God.
- Enjoy and work the ground.
- Multiply through _____.

▪ **The _____ Covenant.**

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. And you, be fruitful and multiply,

increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.” Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.” **Genesis 9:1–17**

- A covenant of common grace.
- Expectation of _____ governance.

○ **Genesis 12 through Malachi 4: God’s covenants with His people.**

▪ **The _____ Covenant.**

*Now the LORD said to **Abram**, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

Genesis 12:1–3

*After these things the word of the **LORD** came to **Abram** in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord **GOD**, what will you give*

me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

Genesis 15:1–21

- A covenant of _____ grace with the nation of Israel.
- Faith in promises of blessings, land, descendants, and influence.

▪ The _____ Covenant.

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.

Exodus 19:5–6

And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, “You

*Speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was. **Exodus 20:1–17***

*Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.” And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” **Exodus 24:3–8***

And the LORD said to Moses, “Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.” So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 34:27–28

- A covenant of special grace with the nation of Israel.
- Obedience amidst promises of God’s presence, protection, and _____.

▪ **The _____ Covenant.**

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of

God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’” In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

2 Samuel 7:1–17

You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”

Psalms 89:3–4

I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation." And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens. If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my rules, if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips. Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies.

Psalm 89:20–37

- A covenant of **special grace** with the nation of Israel.
 - A promise of a _____ line that will last forever.
- **Matthew -- Revelation:** God's covenant with the _____.
- **The _____ Covenant:**

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall

each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:31–34

. . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:28

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:25

But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah"

Hebrews 8:6-8

In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 8:13

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Hebrews 9:15

The NEW Covenant with the Church is...

- A covenant of _____ for the church in all nations.
- Salvation through _____:
 - the new Adam,
 - the righteous Judge,
 - the seed of Abraham,
 - the fulfillment of the Law,
 - the King from David's line.

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Jeremiah 23:5

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

Galatians 3:16

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Matthew 5:17

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1:32–33