



tcS0025

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## — “You a Good Citizen?” —

Someone recently posted to Facebook something that I've heard many times. It goes something like this: "Christians are not citizens of the world, but we're just passing through on our way to a place where we are citizens." It's the kind of thing that typically yields the *warm fuzzies* for most. It sounds and feels religious, but is it scriptural? Let's find out...

A good starting place is Luke 14:24, where Jesus is quoted as saying "And whosoever does not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple." I've underlined the word, "his," there, because your cross may be much heavier than mine. Still, you are to be held accountable for carrying it to the very best of your ability. Said another way, we must each play the hand we're dealt!

Believers who're so heavenly-minded as to think they are not responsible for practicing good citizenship while here will miss out on the rewards that will come with having carried the full weight of the cross they've been assigned. I'm convinced that being a good citizen includes being active (as opposed to passive) in the fight for what's right. What, precisely, might that include?

There is the wildly popular notion that it just isn't Christ-like for Believers to be active on the political scene...that we must just PRAY that God will restore righteousness to our republic. In your memory, has there ever been a political climate in which our faith is seen as repulsive and the constant barrage of attacks against those who practice it is viewed as evidence of honor and heroism?

Does "Just smile and pray" sound like the mindset of our role model who overturned tables in the temple and chased people out with a whip? Does it match the thinking of our Master who said to His closest associates, "You don't have a sword? Sell your coat, for goodness' sake, and buy one!"?



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