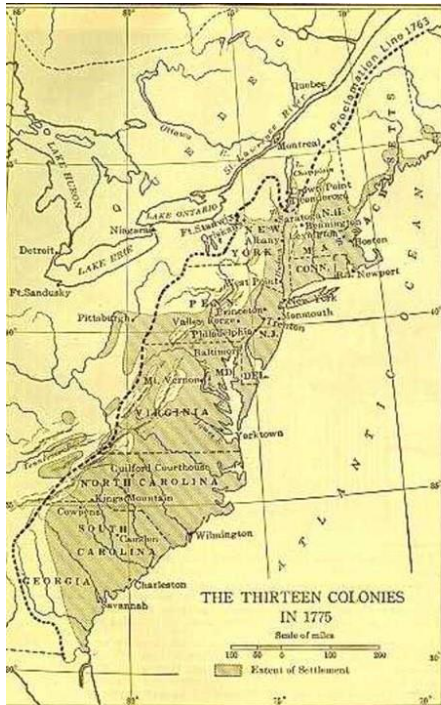


*Fundamentals for American Christians*

*Bible Study with Dr. Paul Jehle*

*Week 4: June 3, 2020 - Lesson 3 “The Flow of Power & Force”*



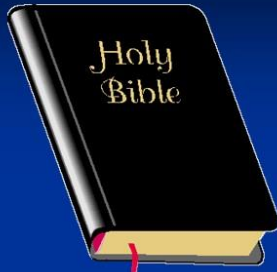
Two book covers are displayed against a blue background. The left cover is purple and white, titled "FUNDAMENTALS FOR AMERICAN CHRISTIANS VOLUME ONE GUIDE BOOK" by the "PLYMOUTH ROCK FOUNDATION". The right cover is blue and white, titled "RUS WALTON FACS! Fundamentals For American Christians".

*Foundations of a Biblical Worldview*  
Lesson Three – Flow of Power and Force

## **A Believer's Responsibility to their Nation**

- **Psalm 33:12** – *the culture reflects the condition of the Church*
  - How does God bless / curse a nation?
  - By the condition of God's people!
- **Matthew 5:13-16** – *light is effective in proportion to being salt*
  - You are the salt (preservation) of the earth – service (deposits)
  - You are the light (exposure of darkness) of the world (withdrawals)
- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:17** – *God holds the Church responsible*
  - God judges, cleanses, and holds His Church accountable first
  - *When the Church is cleansed, the culture experiences grace*

## A Review of Biblical Presuppositions



*Biblical premises  
or presuppositions  
are pillars from  
which God  
advances His  
Kingdom through  
history*

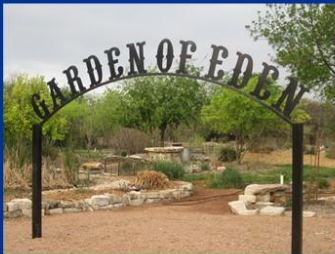
- The Bible is the ultimate standard for truth
- Darkness cannot conquer where Christ's light prevails; shining through the believer!
- We are dual citizens – we have a *responsibility* to disciple nations by advancing liberty!
  - We are kingdom citizens of heaven *and* earth
  - Our attitude and actions *affect* those around us
- Civil Government is God's ministry of justice
- The Pilgrims set an example of reasoning from the Bible and the Patriots advanced its liberty!

3

## What is Government?



*Of every tree of the garden  
you may freely eat; but  
(one) – Genesis 2:16-17a*



- Most people and modern dictionaries define it as external, civil government - politics
  - It is outside of us, the force of the State (Caesar)
  - We look to the State for everything these days
- Government begins with God and its first sphere is at the individual level, not the state
  - It begins in the Garden of Eden where *internal self-control was to maintain external liberty*
  - It also demonstrates that a *loss of internal control yields an increase in external control*

4

## Government Defined...

### ■ The New Lexicon Webster's Dictionary – 1992

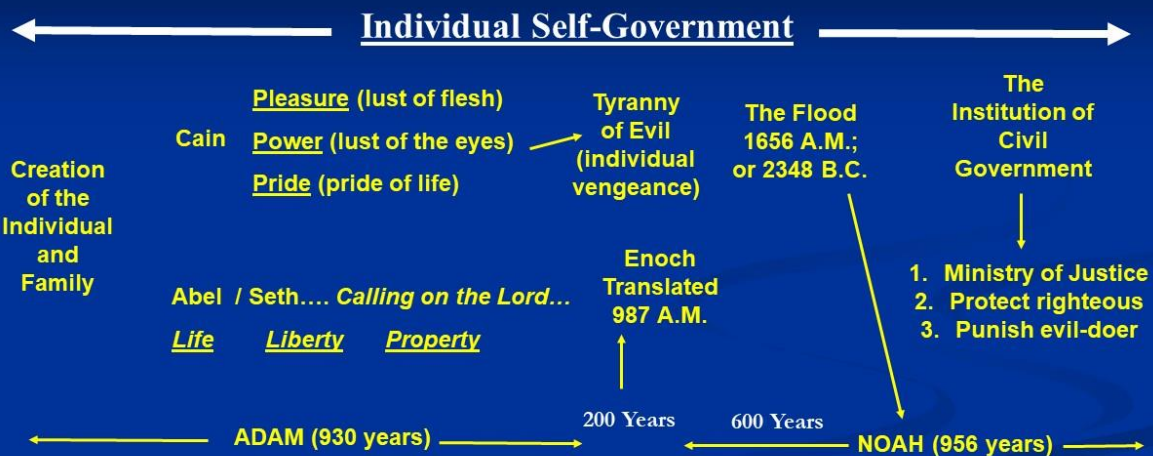
- *A governing, nationwide rule, authoritarian control, a system of governing.... the ministers who govern a country...*
- Note that the definition begins externally, at the *top*

### ■ Webster's 1828 Dictionary

- *1. Direction; regulation. These precepts will serve for the government of our conduct. 2. Control; restraint. Men are apt to neglect the government of their temper and passions.*
- Note that this definition, based on the Scriptures, begins internally
- Government is positive – direction; and negative - restraint

5

## From Adam to Noah – at least 1,656 years



6

## The Institution of Civil Government

- Genesis 9:6 - *Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man*
  - The origin of civil government was for the protection of life
- Genesis 9:5 – *from the hand of every man's brother...*
  - He gave the force of restraint to man to administer
- God instituted the State – Civil Government (Romans 13:1-7)
  - As a ministry of justice (the fear of God's Law) in the earth
  - To protect the righteous by maintaining order in society (those who can govern themselves) – see also 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:1-7
  - To punish the evil-doer (those who refuse to govern themselves)

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## Matthew Henry on Genesis 9:1-7

- *Willful murderers must be put to death. This is the sin which is here designed to be restrained by the terror of punishment... Before the flood as it should seem by the story of Cain, God took the punishment of murder into His own hands; but now He committed this judgment to men, to masters of families at first, and afterwards to the heads of countries, who ought to be faithful to the trust reposed in them.*
- *Magistrates must punish murderers. There are those who are ministers of God for this purpose, to be a protection to the innocent, by being a terror to the malicious and evildoers and they must not bear the sword in vain. (Ro. 13:4)*

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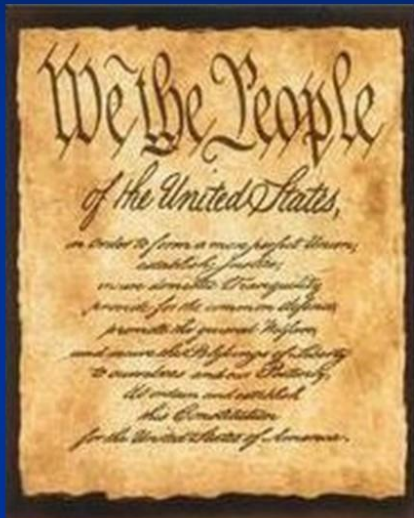


## What is God's purpose for Civil Government?

- *In its proper employment, civil government – external government – is to be a defensive agency; its purpose is to protect (to defend) the peaceful individual from those who would otherwise engage in violence against God's creation, man. – Rus Walton*
- *For the Christian, there is a deeper meaning – man's need for order reflects man's need for the Supreme Ruler of the universe; ultimately, according to the Scripture, the need for order will be met by a universal yielding to God.. The Bible also tells us that God created the heavens and the earth and man – and that God is the sole governor of man. – Charles H. Wolfe*

9

## The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution



*We the people of the United States,  
in order to form a more perfect union,  
establish justice,  
insure domestic tranquility,  
provide for the common defense,  
promote the general welfare  
and secure the blessings of liberty to  
ourselves and our posterity,  
do ordain and establish this Constitution for  
the United States of America*

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## The Flow of Power and Force

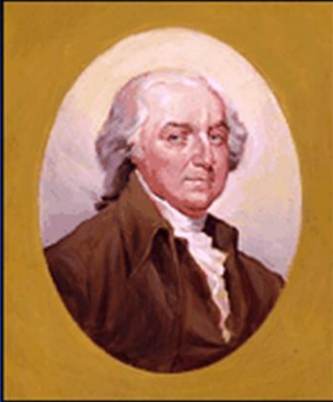
- *Civil government is not an entity in the sense of being an individual capable of producing goods and services. Rather, civil government is the flow of power and force in society. The structure or form of civil government, to legislative, judicial and executive, is only the means by which power and force operate. Of primary concern to the American Christian is the understanding of the source and quality of this power and force, and how civil government is to be used so as not to negate Biblical precepts and principles. – Verna M. Hall*
  - Power is the jurisdictional authority given to government (badge)
  - Force is the execution of that power (the gun)

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## The Two Distinct Spheres of Government

- *Government, i.e. power and force, has two spheres of operation – the internal and the external. In the former, the power and force is called individual self-government; in the latter, civil government. Christians know that the internal sphere is causative to the external, for does not our Lord so instruct us when He says, ‘a good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and the evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.’ This statement of our Lord... tells us where the source and quality of this power and force resides – in the heart...*
  - Verna M. Hall, *Consider and Ponder*.

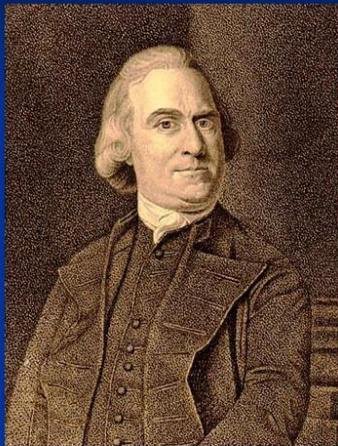
12



**John Adams**

*We have staked the whole future of American Civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.*

## **Samuel Adams**



*The right to freedom being the gift of God Almighty... the rights of the colonists as Christians ... may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutes of the great Law Giver... which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament*

## Conclusions drawn from these Premises

- Proverbs 23:7 – *as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he....*
- The source of power and force internally determines the nature and quality of the government externally
  - Emotional / violent pressure is not a good cause for quality change
- We get the government we resemble in our hearts
- The condition of God's people will determine the nature of how God either blesses or curses a nation
- Changing the external size or quality of government requires a long-term approach to changing our internal character

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## The “Break-out of Violence” in our Streets

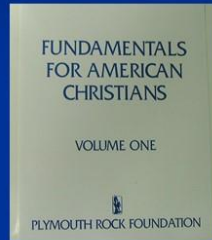
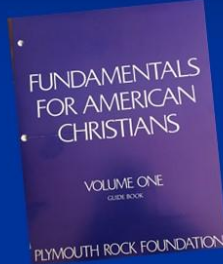
- Believers must ponder two axioms of Scripture at this time:
  - *External liberty can only be maintained by self-control*
  - *Lawless anarchy that destroys life, liberty and property will lead to martial law and by necessity more tyrannical control*
- There are great examples of self-control at this time...
  - A Sheriff joining the side of peaceful protestors against police brutality
  - Groups of citizens bannng together to protect their community
- What should the believer do?
  - Pray for righteous action and creative ways to serve at this time
  - Communicate with and pray for local officials facing these challenges

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## Suggested reading from Lesson 3...

- Get either the *FACS notebook or paperback (508-888-1889)*



- Read Lesson 3 of the notebook; Chapter 4 of the paperback
- Read *Self-Government in Christ* article by Rus Walton
- Ponder questions in the notebook; review PowerPoint slides