

Words of

# Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

JULY 2014 – VOL. IV, NO. 7  
CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

## Government, Citizens, Churches, & Christians

*Is there any difference between how a Christian and how a church should influence society?*

Our government has many problems, and *sin is a reproach to any people*, so many citizens hope sinful laws will change (Prov. 14:34). Some people assume that God wants His churches actively involved in the social process of changing laws. Is this idea from the knowledge of Christ (2 Pet. 1:3)?

Jesus cooperated with governments but never involved His churches in organizing or financially supporting groups organizing social/civil change. Likewise, a Christian should cooperate with the government without involving the church in the social process of social change (1 Pet. 2:17; 5:1-2). A church may not do all that a Christian

individually may do.

In Scripture, the churches of Christ learned/taught God’s will for each spouse, employer/employee, and citizen without doing the work God assigned to the government, business, or home. Hosting voter registration rallies or voting booths is work God assigned to citizens or the government, not His churches. Will churches also host executions (Rom.13:4)?

God’s word applies to every part of our life, but we must study the Bible to know who God assigned certain works to. Visit our website for more study of this subject.

***In This Issue:***

- **Government, Citizens, Churches, & Christians**
- **Families, Churches, & Christians**
- **An Escape From Suicide & Sin**

Author & Editor: David Halbrook

---

## Families, Churches, & Christians

In the article above, we saw that churches should not do everything governments or individuals should do. Likewise, God gave some work to the home or individual but not to His churches.

One obvious example is punishing children (Heb. 12:9-11). Do you want the leaders of your congregation deciding when or how to punish your children? God gave this duty *to parents*, not churches. Churches should teach God’s truth on this topic, but it is the duty of the family to do the work.

God approves of hospitality (providing food, conversation, or clean entertainment for guests, 1 Pet. 4:9) and taught individuals or families to provide it (Acts 2:46; 1 Pet. 4:9). Today, churches, who would not punish children, provide hospitality in the form of food, games, and movies (like *Finding Nemo*), but God gave this work to the family. And when churches call these things “fellowship,” they abuse this Bible word. “Fellowship” in the Bible never means games or social meals. For further study, visit our website and read the article, *Who put the Fellowship in Fellowship Halls?*, or call us and request a copy. We want to hear your comments or questions on this subject. If you disagree, tell us why.

# An Escape From Suicide & Sin

*One man's life drastically changed in one night. Yours can too.*

Read Acts 16:16-27 to learn about the events in Philippi that led to a jailer preparing to kill himself. He stopped when he heard Paul say, *Do yourself no harm, for we are all here* (v28). The jailer then asked Paul, *What must I do to be saved?* (v30)—the jailer was lost and knew it!

First, Paul told him to *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.* Not many people in Philippi knew the gospel yet, so this is a good “starting place” for the jailer. But this is not all that Paul told him. In verses 32-33, Paul taught the jailer what it meant to believe on Jesus, and in response, *immediately he and all his family were baptized.* This is exactly what happened when the Ethiopian heard Philip preach Jesus (read Acts 8:35-38).

Is that what happened when you learned about Jesus? Today, when someone is told to believe on Jesus, they often wait days, weeks, or months to be baptized, but this man was baptized immediately, even though it was after midnight! If this is different than your story of learning about Jesus, ask yourself what is different and why. Remember that when the jailer knew he was lost and was taught to believe in Jesus, he was immediately baptized. Why be immediately baptized?

Peter preached repentance and baptism *for the remission of sins* and baptism saves (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21). Paul was baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16). Jesus said, *He who believes and is baptized will be saved* (Mk. 16:16). This baptism is part of the *word of the Lord* Paul taught the jailer (vs. 33). Now we realize that he was immediately baptized so his sins would be immediately forgiven by God!

Today, most people are not immediately baptized because they believe God gives salvation before and without baptism. Baptism for someone who was already saved by Jesus is absent from the book of Acts. The Bible says Jesus' blood was given *for the remission of sins* and baptism is *for the remission of sins* (Matt. 26:28; Acts 2:38). Baptism is the time when Jesus' blood removes our sin—this is God's purpose and plan. If you were not taught this baptism, contact us for further study or with any related question

*Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.*

*And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes.*

*And immediately he and all his family were baptized.*

*(Acts 16:32-33)*

You are invited to:  
Sunday AM Bible classes:  
**10:00AM**

Sunday AM Worship:  
**10:45AM**

Sunday PM Worship:  
**5:00 PM**

Wednesday Bible Classes & Worship: **7:00 PM**

## Questions from this issue's articles:

1. Did Jesus involve His churches in the work of changing the laws of evil governments?
2. Give some examples of things God assigned to the home and not to the church.
3. When the jailer learned the word of Lord, how long did he wait to be baptized?
4. What is the purpose of baptism, as taught by Jesus, Peter, and Paul?

\* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501  
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

\* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

\* All past and current issues of *Truth and Reason* are available at our website—tell a friend!