

**Stay
in the
Word**



CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

"You are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13

Family, in a few days, we will once again celebrate our nation's birthday with food, drink, entertainment of some sort, and perhaps gazing into the evening sky to catch a firework display. However, what really should be the Christian's distinctive role in this celebration? As grateful children of our heavenly Father, we will, of course, want to thank Him for the uncounted blessings He has showered upon our land. Truly, He has blessed us beyond measure. And yet, we should want to do more than merely give thanks.

Besides the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew also records for us in this chapter the concept of being salt and light, and how we are to be "the salt of the earth" as well as "the light of the world." Jesus is applying these concepts not only to our private lives as individual Christians, but also to our civic lives as Christian citizens. As salt, for example, we are to help preserve the health of our nation; we are to help prevent the spread of corruption.

Many sincere believer's feel uncomfortable when it comes to taking part in governmental affairs. This is due, in many cases, to a lifelong misconception of the idea of "separation of Church and State." The Christian is not only a practicing member of their church, but should be (and wants to be) a practicing member of their community, city, state, and nation. Having rendered unto God the things that are God's, one must also discharge their rightful obligations to the community in which one lives.

How desperately our nation needs the salt of Christian witness and action! Dishonesty, greed, profanity, divorce, and sins of sexual impurity are all around us. In concert with other God-fearing citizens, we are to do all within our God-given power to change the spread of moral decay which threatens our land. As our Lord implied: salt that is not applied is worthless. Humanity will not benefit if salt, and that's us, His disciples, become useless. One might as well throw it out to be trampled underfoot.

And so, family, what are we doing? What is our response to being salt AND even light? And are we also a practicing member of our community; our city, state and nation?

What we do within our church and school must NOT be limited to only our property or kept within our walls. Words without deeds are like salt that has become useless or like a light put under a basket. The words we speak in praise of our heavenly Father need the support of our deeds. Jesus wants us to witness by both words and deeds, even as God bears witness that He is our Father when He calls us His children.

Therefore, as we carry out our various ways to celebrate the 4th, let's also reflect upon our Christian citizenship and what it truly means to be "good" salt and a "shining" light wherever we are.

In Christ,
Pastor Seehafer