

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Acts 17:26

26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

Jer 29:5-7

5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Lev 19:33-34

33 "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. 34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Also Read:

Rom 13:1-7

Study Guide 8 August 2010 – National Day 2010



Summary

We want to consider three things:

What is a biblical perspective of the time and place

God has put us in?

What area is God challenging us in?

What is our hope?

God has determined the exact time and place where we live. Not only that, but He is the one who is over all of history and life, appointing people to their high and low positions, successes and failures in order to accomplish his purpose, His gospel and His glory.

Since God is sovereign, we should, if foreigners, invest in nation God has put us in. If we are locals, we must show hospitality and justice to the foreigner and treat him like a local, as God commands.

We also must submit to the authorities God has put over us and recognize that God has put them there for His purposes and for our ultimate good.

Nevertheless, we do not put our hope in our government or our authorities. The government may change our behavior, but only the gospel can change our hearts.

Key points

God is sovereign over our time and place – that means He is completely in control (and we aren't).

We must steward what God has given us for His glory, including the time and place we live in.

Explanation

>>How does behavioural change differ from a change of heart?

>>How do we submit to earthly authority?

Application

>>If we acknowledge that God is sovereign over our time and place and position, how must we change the objectives of all our efforts?

>>If we are foreigners, have you invested as God asked us to, and if we are locals, how have we shown godly hospitality to foreigners and treated them as locals?

Final thoughts

God is sovereign and we must act like He is, which means God-centered effort, God-glorifying community and godly submission to authority. Let us pray for humility to live this way and hope in God.