



October 9, 2024

MESSENGER

QUOTE FOR TODAY

"Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"
Philippians 3:20

INFO

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Four Little Prepositions

Everybody's talking about politics! You just can't escape it. Well, Pastor Connie and I decided that we can't fight it, so we'd better join it. That's what inspired the four-week sermon series that will begin this Sunday and end two days before our National Election Day, which is co-incidentally also ABC's Homecoming Sunday, November 3.

Don't get me wrong; we're not going to tell you who to vote for! We're going to talk politics in the *original* sense of the word. In the Greek language, **polis** is the word for city, and a **polites** is a person who lives in a city, or a citizen. (It's kind of ironic that we get our word polite from the same root, something which American politicians aren't noted for.)

Our **four sermons** will revolve around four prepositions that may be used to define a Christian Citizen's relationship with the community, tribe or nation he or she lives in: ***of, in, for and with***. We will try to explain each of these connections from Biblical teachings:

A CHRISTIAN CITIZEN: NOT **OF** THE WORLD -
October 13

A CHRISTIAN CITIZEN: LIVING **IN** THE WORLD -
October 20

A CHRISTIAN CITIZEN: LIVING **FOR** THE WORLD -
October 27

A CHRISTIAN CITIZEN: LIVING **WITH** THE WORLD -
November 3

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I think anyone trying to live as a Christian in the modern world feels that there is a built-in tension that isn't always easy to sort out. Difficult choices are part of day-to-day living patterns, making a living, choosing a life partner, raising children, relating to neighbors, living in a community, identifying with a nation, being one of billions of people in the world. When we vote on November 5, members of the ABC family will probably decide differently between candidates and on other ballot questions because we vary on how we handle the four prepositions above. As we're making these hard choices, let's respect each other.

At the same time, I invite each of you to interact with our sermons the next four weeks so that we can rethink together our understanding of what the Bible teaches about the four prepositions used to define a Christian Citizen's relationship with the world in which she/he lives. Be open to growth and change. Then vote on November 5!

Pastor George Van Alstine