

International and National Worldview

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BIG SANDY, Texas—This is the Fourth of July weekend in the year 2020. While it is important for people to be thankful every day of our lives, I believe that this is a time to be thankful for the blessings of our country.

I want to share a few moments talking about your worldview. I want to proceed by examining two different areas of our worldview.

International

What is your worldview toward the people who share our planet with us?

John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Acts 10:34-35—"Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.' "

Acts 17:26-27—"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us."

Revelation 14:6-7—"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.' "

National

What is your worldview toward the people who share our nation with us?

Paul had a love for his countrymen.

Romans 9:3—"For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh."

The Bible taught that the laws of the land were for citizens who were born here and for naturalized citizens.

Leviticus 18:26—"You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you."

Leviticus 24:22—"You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the LORD your God."

Numbers 15:16—"One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you."

Paul and his rights

Notice how Paul was aware of his rights and utilized his rights to navigate through difficult times.

Acts 16:37-38—"But Paul said to them, 'They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out.' And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans."

Acts 22:25-29—"And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, 'Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?' When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, 'Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman.' Then the commander came and said to him, 'Tell me, are you a Roman?' He said, 'Yes.' The commander answered, 'With a large sum I obtained this citizenship.' And Paul said, 'But I was born a citizen.' Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and the commander was also afraid after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him."