

# Who We Are

## Christians

Not some brand of Christians.

Not Christians plus something else.

We've no denominational affiliation, no governing association. We wear only the name of Jesus Christ, glorify Him alone in our name, acknowledge Him alone as our governing head.

*Colossians 3:17 ; Galatians 6:14 ; 1 Peter 4:14-16*

# What We Believe

## The Bible

Not part of the Bible—all of it.

And the Bible alone.

We've no creed, no catechism. We preach, we teach, we read, we recommend, we seek to know and live just the words God gave—all of them.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 ; 2 John 9 ; Revelation 22:18-19*

# What We Offer

## Spirituality

**Preaching** that convicts, exhorts, instructs and encourages.

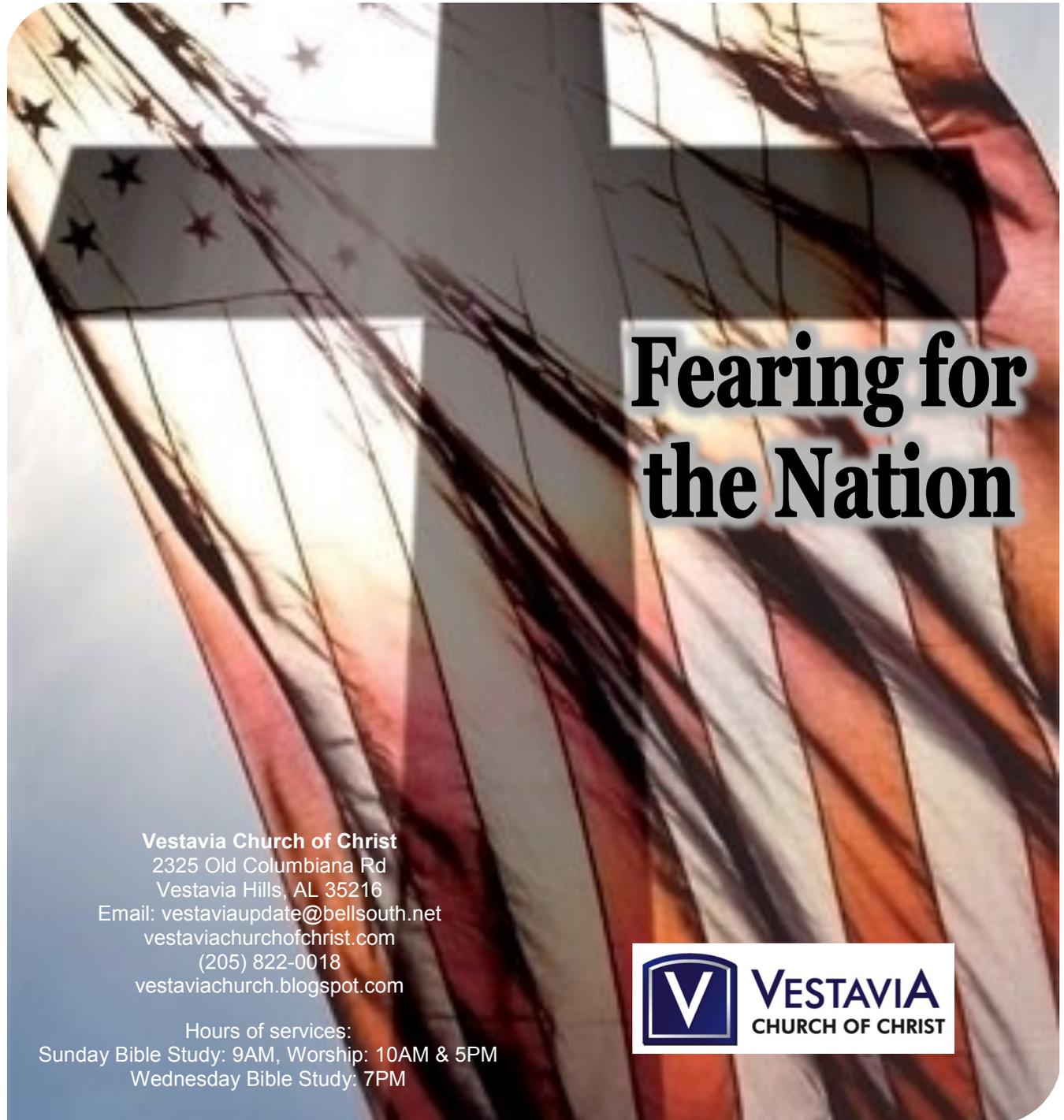
**Bible classes** that are practical, informative and stimulating for all ages.

**An atmosphere** for building better character and nurturing better homes.

**Worship** that is spirited, reverent, God-centered.

**A spiritual family** committed to God, to each other, to evangelism, to a heavenly hope.

*2 Timothy 4:2 ; 1 Peter 4:11 ; Romans 12:9-13*



# Fearing for the Nation

**Vestavia Church of Christ**

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Hours of services:

Sunday Bible Study: 9AM, Worship: 10AM & 5PM

Wednesday Bible Study: 7PM



# Fearing for the Nation

By Doy Moyer

**W**e wonder about the direction of our nation and how the next elected leaders will address our fundamental concerns. Everyone has a vested interest in the economy and the other issues that are constantly discussed during in the news and especially at election times. Christians find themselves in the difficult position of knowing that few politicians will represent their concerns and priorities. As Christians, we are aware that the morality of the nation is more important than the economy, yet we often feel pushed to the side as if our views don't matter anymore.

Scripture shows that the government has a basic job of knowing the difference between good and evil, then acting accordingly (Rom. 13:1-7). Of course, the definition of good and evil is not a definition that comes from a group of politicians who are relativistic in their thinking. God, as reflected in His word, is the source of proper definitions. Sadly, biblical good and evil are often not the actual concern of those in power, and this can create anxiety in the hearts of Christians who are torn about how to deal with their own relationship to the government. We must all live with our consciences, after all.

Let's remember that all governments and leaders rise and fall by the will of God. Jesus told Pilate, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been

*"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed;..."*

*Daniel 4:44*

given you from above" (John 19:11). Politicians who fail to recognize this are not doing themselves any favors. Even more, Christians who don't remember this may find themselves more anxious than they ought to be because they fail to trust that God has it all under control. The next president will be in that position of authority because it is given from above. This does not imply God's approval of the moral positions of the politician any more than he approved of Pilate's paganism or Nebuchadnezzar's idolatry. The fact is that sometimes God allows leaders, for the good or the bad, to take the nation in a direction that the nation may have been asking for. Review the history of Israel's demand for a king like the nations around them to see the point (1 Sam. 8).

God is in control. He rules in the nations of men (the point of the book of Daniel). As every period in history shows, powerful nations rise and fall in time. No nation will stand securely on this earth forever. Christians should never put their ultimate faith in any human authority or government. As in all situations involving sinful people, they will fail and let us down. Is there any reason to think that everything along these lines will suddenly change? "The kingdoms of earth pass away one by one, but the kingdom of heaven remains."

## What are Christians to do?

First, Christians need to be Christians. That is, let's not just call ourselves Christians. Many people call themselves Christians, but may make little effort to live the life of a true Christian (see Matt. 7:21-23). Rather, let us truly be Christians, living as lights in the

midst of this crooked and perverse generation (Phil. 2:15-16; Matt. 5:14-16). The influence that we can have in this way is far more powerful than a vote cast in an election. We need to see a bigger picture than that. We need to see how living as Christians is more significant than how much money a politician can save us. We need to understand the relationship between righteousness in the lives of ordinary people and the direction of a nation (Prov. 14:34). If we want to influence the direction of the nation, then let's do it in your own sphere of personal influence first. More than that, let's work to save as many from their sins as possible.

Second, Christians can do what we ought to be doing all the time: pray! "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Tim. 2:1-2). We want to live quiet, peaceful, godly, and dignified lives, so we pray for those in positions of power, whether or not we agree with them. Remember that Paul was writing to Christians living in the Roman Empire. They were to submit and pray, which in the long run is far more powerful than attempting to rebel in some insurrection against the government.

Take comfort in the fact that nothing happens apart from God's knowledge and sovereignty. In His time, He will deal with the corruption and problems faced by any nation. In the meantime, live as a Christian—as salt and light—and keep praying.