

**Wretched Worldview**

**Politics:  
The Christian's Response**

**Study Guide**

### Introduction

Welcome to the study guide for Wretched Worldview's *Politics: The Christian's Response* DVD. This guide has been created to help you maximize the content of the *Politics: The Christian's Response* DVD.

The chapter questions are intended to be used in a homeschool setting, but can also be used for small groups or Sunday school classes. For the homeschool student, the answers should include biblical references when possible.

The Going Deeper questions are designed to encourage deeper thinking and understanding of the subject. The goal is to strengthen the viewers' biblical worldview and instill skills to think biblically.

An answer guide and essay test are also available in this download.

### A Word from Wretched

You are to be applauded for your willingness to study an issue that you most likely have very strong opinions about: politics. Be warned though, you may be in for a bumpy ride as few subjects create as much heat as the subject of politics.

We are not going to study political history to determine our political posture as Christians though. We are going to study our Bibles. As challenging as this may be, we need to quiet the voices of Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Mark Levin, and listen to the Word of God. As we do, we will see that the Bible offers clear guidance for the Christian who loves the subject of politics.

Once again, congratulations on your willingness to wrestle through a complex issue and potentially have your theology of politics challenged.

Todd Friel  
Host of Wretched Radio & TV

### CHAPTER ONE: The Gospel vs. Politics

1. List the 10 reasons why Christians should focus more on the gospel than politics, according to Greg Stier. Include the Scripture references given.
2. Does this mean that Christians cannot or should not be involved in politics?
3. Do you think the Evangelical church in America is known more for its political affiliation than its gospel proclamation? Give specific examples to support your answer.

## GOING DEEPER:

1. Read through all of the Scripture references that were given in the list above (under question one), then fill out the chart below regarding the Christian's responsibilities to God, to the church and to society. (Not all of the Scripture references will apply and some can be put in more than one place on the chart.)

### The Christian's Responsibility

To God	To Fellow Believers (The Church)	To Unbelievers (Society)

2. Look through the list and prayerfully consider how you are doing in fulfilling your responsibilities in each of these areas. Write down your thoughts and then spend some time praying about what you have written. Be honest in your writing and in your praying.

### CHAPTER TWO: It's Not Our Job! - Part 1

1. What was the question Todd asked at the beginning of this segment? And what was his answer?
2. How were the books of Romans and 1 & 2 Corinthians used to support this answer?
3. What two commandments in Scripture define a Christian's job or responsibility in the world, according to Todd?
4. What is the conjunction that many evangelicals use with the gospel that often ends up compromising it?
5. List the four ways Christians often attempt to change culture.
6. What is the danger for Christians using politics to change culture?

### GOING DEEPER:

1. Do you agree that it is not the job of Christians to make the world a better place? Why or why not? Use Scripture to support your answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. This chapter mentioned "ecumenism". Look up the word in a dictionary and write down its definition.
  - a. What is the danger of ecumenism as stated in this chapter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Do you agree that there is a danger in Christians partnering with people of other faith to accomplish political ends? Why or why not? Give Scripture to support your answer.

### CHAPTER THREE: It's Not Our Job! – Part 2

1. What is the danger of Christian activism?
2. What is the “grand prize” or the “pearl” of theology? Give as detailed an answer as you can.
3. How can Christians keep the gospel from getting watered down when participating in causes or ministries, and where does it start according to Todd?
4. Summarize the examples that Todd gave in how Christians can keep a gospel-focus when discussing political issues or causes.
5. This segment ends with an important statement about the supremacy of the gospel and protecting it from being distorted or watered down. Summarize what was said.

### GOING DEEPER:

1. Find the verse that tells us that the gospel is a stumbling block and write it here.

2. Read I Corinthians 1:18-31 and answer the following questions about the gospel:

According to verse 18, what is the gospel to those being saved? What is it to those who are perishing?

Verse 19 is a quote from the Old Testament. What verse is Paul quoting from?

*Foolish* and *foolishness* are repeated words in this text. (Some versions may also use *folly*.) Write down everything you learn about these words. For example, who or what is foolish?

Why is the message of the cross considered foolishness to those who are perishing?

What is Christ, to those who believe?

Why has God called those who are not (necessarily) wise or mighty or noble according to the world, and chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise (vs. 26 & 27)?



### CHAPTER FOUR: Why Small Government is Biblical

1. Before coming to a conclusion that small government is better than big government (the position that most Christians assume), we must first lose our presuppositions. What does this mean?
2. Explain how the Trinity helps us understand the realms of authority that God has set in place for society.

Describe the four realms of authority according to the Bible

3. Why is it important that each realm of authority operate within their God given boundaries?
4. List the examples given of issues in our society and whose realm each falls under.

## GOING DEEPER:

1. In this chapter, it was mentioned that the Trinity operates under the principle of “economic subordination.” The term “economic subordination” refers to the efficiency of differing roles within a relationship.

In order to better understand this important principle, read the following verses and then summarize the role that is being described and list it under the proper member of the Godhead in the chart below. As an example, John 6:44 has been done for you. (Some verses describe the role of more than one member of the Godhead, so they will be listed more than once in the chart.)

John 3:16	I Corinthians 12:11
John 6:38	Galatians 5:22-23
John 6:44	Ephesians 1:7
John 14:26	I Peter 1:1-2
John 15:26	I John 4:14

**The Role of God the Father:**  
**Sent the Son – John 6:44**

**The Role of God the Son:**

**The Role of God the Holy Spirit:**

2. Summarize in one sentence the role that each member of the Trinity plays in accomplishing salvation.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Look over the list above and write the order as to Who sent Whom to accomplish their respective roles?

What you spelled out in the two questions above, is a description of the economic subordination of the Trinity. The three members of the Godhead voluntarily submit to each other in order to accomplish the work of salvation. There is a distinction of order and roles, but not in nature. All Three Persons of the Trinity are co-equal in nature and attributes, power and authority. It's important to remember this essential truth!

### CHAPTER FIVE: Less Conscience...More Cops

1. Todd quoted from an article that stated our country was in a “soft collapse.” What does this mean?
2. In your own words, explain this quote from James Madison: “The duties and rights of conscience are prior to civil society and government. They come before it.”
3. Explain Chuck Colson’s 4 C’s of Culture, including the diagram that Todd drew on the chalkboard.
4. Historically, what informed Americans’ consciences?
5. What is happening to the American conscience today?
6. What are the questions that arise because of this?

### GOING DEEPER:

1. Read Romans 13:1-7, and list what you learn about governing authorities from this passage.
2. Chapter 4 discussed the four realms of authority we are under. According to the Bible, what are our responsibilities or obligations to these authorities? Fill in the chart below by reading the Scripture passages and writing down everything you learn about what God requires of those under each appointed authority. (Verses that pertain to masters and servants can be applied to employer and employee relationships.)

<b>Government: Romans 13:1-7</b>
<b>Economics/Employment: Ephesians 6:1-9</b>
<b>Church: I Thessalonians 5:12-13</b>
<b>Family: Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20</b>

3. Take a few moments to think about how you respond to the authority in your life. In the space below, summarize how you're doing in each area. Think about your attitude, behavior, interactions, etc. Also, write about what you find most challenging in each realm; and what, if any, changes you need to make to live at peace with the various authorities God has placed over you.

### CHAPTER SIX: More Cops.... Less Freedom

1. What was the reason the Founding Fathers kept churches exempt from taxation?
2. In his "Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments", what does James Madison say about the conscience and government?
3. How does this line up with Chuck Colson's 4 C's of Culture?
4. Summarize what Madison meant in this quote: Every person who "becomes a member of a particular society must do it . . . with a saving of his allegiance to the Universal Sovereign."
5. Why did our Founding Fathers stress that religion must inform culture?
6. In modern America, what religion is replacing Christianity as that which informs people's consciences? What are its beliefs?
7. What are some of the things being endorsed by secular humanism and what is the effect on our culture?

### GOING DEEPER:

1. To gain a better understanding of Secular Humanism, read the article at [christiananswers.net/q-sum/sum-r002.html](http://christiananswers.net/q-sum/sum-r002.html) and answer the following questions.

How is secular humanism defined in this article? Why do they use this definition?

According to this article, its basic beliefs are atheism, naturalism, evolution, and ethical relativism. Using a dictionary, define each of these terms.

2. How do you see secular humanism replacing Christianity in America?
3. What is the danger to a society of believing that there is no God, and therefore no submission to a universal authority? Who then becomes the final authority?



### CHAPTER SEVEN: Less Christianity...More Secular Humanism

1. Why has Secular Humanism taken the place of Christianity in informing our collective conscience?
2. List the five suggestions Kevin DeYoung gives for how Christians should live in a hyper-sexualized society (one evidence that our society is descending into chaos). Then explain each point in your own words.
3. Beyond these suggestions, what is one of the most practical things we can do to address our cultural descent into chaos?

*(You can also buy Todd's book, Judge Not, available at wretched.tv. We know, shameless plug!)*

### GOING DEEPER:

1. Using Bible commentaries or online resources, find out what you can about the ancient city of Corinth. Read enough resources to write a thorough summary of the city in terms of its geography, demographics, cultural and spiritual influences and practices, and anything else you find of interest. Write your summary below.

2. In I Corinthians 6:9-10, Paul lists the sins for which Corinth was known for. Read the passage and write down the sins listed there.

What does Paul say about those who practice (continue in) these sins?

3. Does ancient Corinth sound anything like America today? Write your thoughts below.

4. List the commands Paul gives the Corinthian Christians at the end of his first letter to them in 16:13.

5. How can, or should, I Corinthians 16:13 be applied to Christians living in contemporary America with its emphasis on secular humanism and the resulting cultural descent into chaos?

### CHAPTER EIGHT: Christian Conundrums – Part 1

1. At the beginning of this chapter, Todd mentions four tough issues facing our country today, about which Christians must think carefully and biblically. What are they? Can you think of any others?
2. What is one possible reason why today's issues are so complicated, according to Todd?
3. What is Libertarianism?
4. What are the two views that most Christians hold in regards to smoking marijuana? How does each view regard the legalization of marijuana?

### GOING DEEPER:

1. We're going to spend some time considering what the Bible says about wisdom from Proverbs 2. Read the chapter two times slowly before answering the following questions. Be sure to cite the appropriate verses in your answers.

Where does wisdom come from?

The writer of Proverbs describes how one should seek for wisdom. To what does he compare the search? What does that tell you about wisdom?

What do verses 2-3 tell you about the process of acquiring wisdom and what is involved in seeking for it?

What will you discern (or understand) when you receive wisdom?

What will you discover (or find) when you receive wisdom?

What does the Lord promise to do for those to whom He gives wisdom?

How will discretion and understanding help you?

What does understanding (or wisdom, in some translations) deliver you from?

How are the wise described at the end of the chapter?

2. Are you wise? Do you possess godly wisdom? Think about what you just read in Proverbs 2 and write down your thoughts below.

### CHAPTER NINE: Christian Conundrums – Part 2

1. Summarize the view of Christian Libertarians regarding the legalization of marijuana.

2. What are the three realms of authority God has set in place?  
*(Please note: in Chapter 4 Todd includes a fourth realm, economics, to include the relationship of employee to employer.)*

3. Explain which realm of authority each of the following issues falls under.

Naughty Child:

Adultery:

Murder:

Rape:

Alcohol (the overconsumption of it):

4. What is the difference between crime and vice? What example was given of each behavior?

5. Under which realms of authority does the Libertarian view crime and vice?

6. How do most Libertarians view the smoking of pot?

7. What are two other important considerations Christians should take into account when considering this issue? Explain how each can be applied.

### GOING DEEPER:

1. In the last chapter's Going Deeper section, we looked at what the Bible says about wisdom from Proverbs 2. You were then asked if you possessed godly wisdom. Maybe you struggled to answer that question. How can you know if you're wise? How can you know if you possess godly wisdom? Read James 3:13-18 for some answers.

According to James, there are two kinds of wisdom. One could be called "wisdom from below" and the other James called "wisdom from above".

How does he describe the wisdom from below?

How does James describe the person whose wisdom is from below?

What is the result of this kind of wisdom?

How does James describe the wisdom from above?

How does one display their wisdom and understanding?

2. Does your life show that you possess godly wisdom? Is your attitude, the words you speak, the life you live marked by purity, peace, gentleness, reasonableness, mercy and good fruits? Are you known to be someone who is unwavering and without hypocrisy? Of course you're still a sinner, but is your life overall marked by these things? Do you desire righteousness? Do you pursue the knowledge of God? Take some time to prayerfully consider these questions and then write down your prayer to the Lord. Be as honest with Him as possible. If you lack godly wisdom, read James 1:5-8 and write out your prayer to the Lord asking Him for His wisdom to mark your thinking and your life.

### CHAPTER TEN: Christian Conundrums – Part 3

1. What is hermeneutics and how is it done?
2. What is the “principlizing bridge” in hermeneutics? How does it work, as explained regarding the Old Testament?
3. What types of literature are Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy?
4. What must we consider when we read these particular books of the Bible?
5. What overarching principle does Todd glean from Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy that applies to us today?
6. Summarize Todd's conclusion of the Libertarian's view of marijuana based upon this principle from the Old Testament, as well as the arguments given in Chapters 8 and 9.



### GOING DEEPER:

What is your view on legalizing the smoking of marijuana? Review the arguments for and against it from chapters 8-10, with careful consideration as to how you apply godly wisdom and love to this topic. Write your position below. Be as detailed as possible and be sure to support your answer with Scripture!

### CHAPTER ELEVEN: How The Church Should Speak to Government – Part 1

1. List the two reasons why the letter from Rev. Daniel Hyde of Oceanside United Reformed Church is so spot on in its response to the government's legalizing of homosexual marriage.
2. What is the significance of how the letter began?
3. What should be the message of the church to those who are sinning, even those in government?

### GOING DEEPER:

To explore more deeply the issue of how Christians should engage with the government, let's look at how Paul interacted with the authorities of his day. While Paul's circumstances aren't analogous to the circumstances which caused Rev. Daniel Hyde's to write his letter, Paul's interactions with authorities are instructive for us nonetheless.

In Acts 21, Paul is arrested in the Temple in Jerusalem by the Jews on false charges of preaching against Jewish custom and Law. When a plot to assassinate Paul by the Jews comes to light, a Roman commander named Lysias makes arrangements for Paul to leave Jerusalem under heavy protection. He is taken to the Roman governor, Felix, in Caesarea.

1. Read Acts 23:26-35.

What caused Lysias to rescue Paul from the plot to assassinate him?

What did Lysias make of the accusations by the Jews?

Who else was to come before Felix for Paul's hearing?

2. Read Paul's defense before Felix in Acts 24:10-22.  
What did Paul admit to?

How does Paul's beliefs affect his actions? What does he tell Felix about his conscience?

Why do you think Paul included the reference to his conscience?

Why does Paul say he is on trial?

3. In a Bible commentary or online resource, find information on Drusilla, (mentioned in Acts 24:24), and her marriage to Felix. Write a short summary below.

4. Given what you learned about Drusilla, why might she have been interested in hearing Paul speak about his faith in Jesus Christ?

5. What does Paul discuss with them? What is Felix's reaction and why do you think he reacted the way he did?

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### CHAPTER TWELVE: How The Church Should Speak to Government – Part 2

1. The church is not just another special interest group. When she speaks to government, or about government issues, how is it different than when other groups speak?
2. Why did the letter include the reference to the church being called to offer “supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings” for those in government?
3. Why did the Pastor wait so long to bring up the subject of homosexuality?
4. How does the letter explain the grievous nature of the sin of homosexuality?
5. According to this letter, homosexuality is a symptom of a larger problem in America. What is it and how does this letter describe it?
6. What two Scripture passages are referenced in the letter to describe the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
7. The letter claimed there is no such thing as same-sex “marriage” and to say it exists is “hubris”. Define what hubris is and then give the two reasons stated in the letter for why the government’s decision is hubris.

### GOING DEEPER:

Let's continue to look at how Paul dealt with the authorities in his day. Here is a brief summary of the events of Acts 25: Paul was held in Caesarea for two years until Felix was succeeded by Festus, before whom Paul appealed his case to Caesar. Before being taken to Rome, King Agrippa (Herod Agrippa II) came to visit Festus. Festus, being a Roman and unfamiliar with Jewish law and custom, took the opportunity to bring Paul before the Jewish King so that Agrippa might be able to help substantiate a case against Paul before Paul was sent to Caesar.

Read Acts 26 and answer the following questions.

1. What question does Paul ask those listening?
2. What was Paul's main purpose in giving his defense as he did? Cite the verse which explains his motivation.
3. What do you think was Paul's purpose of going into detail of his life before his conversion?
4. Write out each of the verses in which Paul shares the gospel with his hearers.
5. What was Festus' reaction to Paul's testimony and what was Paul's response?

6. Read verse 28 in a few different translations and then record King Agrippa's response to Paul's challenge to him in verse 27.

7. What was King Agrippa's determination of the charges against Paul?

8. What insights from Paul's testimony before King Agrippa can you glean regarding sharing biblical truth, the gospel and one's own testimony before government officials?

### CHAPTER THIRTEEN: How the Church Should Speak to Government – Part 3

1. How should Christians respond when facing government persecution?
2. What two persecuted Christians were quoted at the end of the letter?
3. The letter ends with the church making a final statement about where they stand. What do they say at the end?

#### GOING DEEPER:

1. List the Scripture used in the last part of the letter (including those used in the quotes), and write out the verses as they appear in the letter.



2. Give your thoughtful analysis of the entire letter (chapters 11-13). Among other things, consider: What was its main goal or chief purpose? Did it meet its goal and desired purpose? Why or why not? Would you have added or deleted anything to the letter? Etc.