"Citizens & Saints"

Election Day 2026 & All Saints Sunday

November 1, 2026

Introduction: All Saints Day

There is long history of Christians remembering their fellow believers who have preceded them into glory. In the 8th c. AD, a chapel in Rome was dedicated to the memory of all departed saints and martyrs, introducing a day of remembrance and celebration into Christian practice. Alongside the goodness of remembering the faithful, unbiblical practices such the veneration of saints and prayers offered to them came into portions of the church. While these practices were rejected during the Reformation, Protestants continued to commemorate the lives and testimonies of the faithfully departed. In *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*, Philipp Melancthon gave three reasons for this:

(1) Thanksgiving to God (2) Strengthening our faith (3) Imitating their faith and works.

Our brothers and sisters who came before us lived in different nations, under different forms of government, and through vastly different political circumstances. Some enjoyed relative peace and freedom, while others experienced oppression and persecution. Whatever their circumstances, however, they shared our same calling: to live as faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Main Point: **As we seek to live faithfully in this nation amid the political realities we face, we do well to consider God's purposes for human _____ while holding fast to the same _____ shared by the faithful who have preceded us.**

The Establishment of Nations

1. **All nations of the earth share a common origin and reflect both God's image and our fallen nature (Deut. 32:7-9).**

   - This is likely a reflection on Gen. 10-11 where there is an emphasis on man's _____ and God's judgment.

   - Implicit within the text is the influence of _____ forces on humanity's rebellion against God (Dan. 10:21).

2. **Nations exist under God's sovereign providence (Acts 17:24-31).**

   "…providence [is] the continuing action of God by which he preserves in existence the creation he has brought into being , and guides it to his intended purposes…" - Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*

   - Emphasis is on God's transcendence, but also His _____ grace to mankind.

   - By His _____, God determines both the existence and boundaries of nations.

   - Nations are not _____ unto themselves, and those who comprise them are commanded to _____.

Key Points: **It is perfectly natural to identify ourselves as citizens/residents of a particular nation and to seek the _____ of the people and places associated with it.**

We must keep in mind, however, that we are to seek God's _____ above even temporal good.

The Proper Role of Human Government

1. **From its inception, government was established to bring order to human societies (Gen. 9:4-6).**

   - Government was put in place initially to deter _____ through the institution of capital punishment.

2. **Government still exists for the purposes of restraining evil and promoting good (Rom. 13:1-8).**

   - Believers are to recognize the legitimacy of governing authorities and to live _____ them.

- Governments are to provide the conditions for their people to _____.

- One of the prime directives of government remains the _____ of those whose actions undermine human flourishing.

Key Points: In a democratic republic, believers vote for candidates, parties, and platforms according to their _____ before the Lord.

We do so under the ultimate _____ of God, seeking the greatest good for our nation.

Where is Our Ultimate Hope Found?

1. Our hope must be in our God who is eternal, rather than in temporal powers (Psa. 146:1-10).

- Hope springs from a life of _____. (vv. 1-2)

- Hope cannot be found in human authorities because of natural _____. (vv. 3-4)

- Hope is found in the God of the _____, _____, and _____. (vv. 5-6)

- God does for His people _____ what the best of governments can only do temporarily. (vv. 7-9)

- Joy and peace under every kind of temporal power come from acknowledgement of the _____ and _____ of our God over all things.

2. In uncertain times, our hope is not found in "a son of man" but in "the Son" (Psa. 2).

- Our God is the One who is truly in _____ of all things. (vv. 1-6)

- The Son is the One who holds the future of all _____ in His hands. (vv. 7-9)

- As His people, we should seek leaders who acknowledge Him and will _____ accordingly. (vv. 10-12)

Key Point: Our brothers and sisters who have gone before us have taken _____ in these truths and we do well to follow their example!

Concluding Exhortations

Heb. 12:1-2—*1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Dan. 2:20-23—*20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; 22 he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.*

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   - This itself is likely a reflection on Gen. 10-11 where there is an emphasis on man's **disobedience** and God's judgment.
   - Implicit within the text is the influence of **spiritual** forces on humanity's rebellion against God (Dan. 10:21).

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   - Emphasis is on God's transcendence, but also His **common** grace to mankind.
   - By His **sovereignty**, God determines both the existence and boundaries of nations.
   - Nations are not **ends** unto themselves, and those who comprise them are commanded to **repent**.

Key Points: It is perfectly natural to identify ourselves as citizens/residents of a particular nation and to seek the good of the people and places associated with it.

We must keep in mind, however, that we are to seek God's glory above even temporal good.

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1. **From its inception, government was established to bring order to human societies (Gen. 9:4-6).**
   - Government was put in place initially to deter **murder** through the institution of capital punishment.

2. **Government still exists for the purposes of restraining evil and promoting good (Rom. 13:1-8).**
   - Believers are to recognize the legitimacy of governing authorities and to live **under** them.

- Governments are to provide the conditions for their people to **flourish**.

- One of the prime directives of government remains the **punishing** of those whose actions undermine human flourishing.

Key Points: In a democratic republic, believers vote for candidates, parties, and platforms according to their conscience before the Lord.

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