

Telltale verses ... Word search "reform" ...

- I found three verses in Scripture that had some form of reform. Only one used the word relative to government and that is Acts 24:2.
- In flattering Felix, Tertullus speaks of the reforms Felix is making for the nation.
—(Acts 24:2 ESV) And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying: "Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, **reforms** are being made for this nation."
- Paul makes it very clear to Felix that he has not intent to disrupt his government.
—(Acts 24:12 ESV) And **they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd**, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city.
- Paul speaks to his diligence to live right before God and man.
—(Acts 24:16 ESV) So I always take pains to have a **clear conscience toward both God and man**.

Maybe the most "telltale" of all ... Daniel and government affairs ...

- Daniel's adversaries pored over his life looking for anything to accuse. **They found nothing in regard to government affairs.** Sometimes we merely focus on the religious aspect, but here we see that **Daniel's compliance with Nebuchadnezzar's pagan government was impeccable.**
—(Daniel 6:4 NASB95) Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.

Telltale verses ... Those evil, wicked, cruel Chaldeans (Babylonians) ...

- Habakkuk cried out against the evil of Israel and could hardly believe his ears when God replied. The LORD was going to bring an evil, wicked, treacherous nation to punish Israel for their rebellion. The **Chaldeans** are the **Babylonians** referred to in Jeremiah.
—(Habakkuk 1:13a NASB95) Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously?
—(Habakkuk 1:6a NASB95) For behold, I am raising up the **Chaldeans**, That fierce and impetuous people.

Telltale Verses on Government Reform— What Does the Bible Actually Say?

Dave's methodology in studying government reform in the Bible ...

- In my study I found the word "reform" (or a variation of it) three times. Only once was it used in regard to secular government. That is included in the notes on Acts 24.
- Since the Bible does not speak directly to government reform, I searched for biblical texts that would seem to afford the best opportunity to study the subject. In other words I looked for events in Scripture that would lend themselves to a call for reform if God chose to address the subject.
- For example, in the notes I examine the instructions given to Israel as to how they were to conduct themselves living under the regime of a pagan government.
- The biblical, consistent theme to Israel and the church is to submit to the governing authorities, even when under the harshest of regimes. What we see preached in the Bible, old and new, is compliance, not reform.
- Someone could bring up the book of Esther in the discussion, but I am not sure that reform would be the best characterization for the events of Esther. However a law was put on the books that allowed them to defend themselves. What we do observe is the submission of Esther and Mordecai within the government of Ahasuerus (Xerxes). They worked through the existing structure.
- I would welcome to the discussion any Bible texts that I have overlooked.

Establishing priorities for our service to Jesus Christ ...

1. Each person has **limited time, energy and resources**.
2. So as **good stewards** we should **prioritize**.
3. As Christians we should **prioritize per the Bible**.
4. **Biblical priorities** (something directly taught in the Bible) should be placed above **extra-biblical priorities** (things that are not directly addressed in the Bible).
5. **Example:** The biblical idea of **submission** to governing authorities is clearly taught in the Bible; **a biblical concept**. However, the various ideas of **reforming government** are **extra-biblical**.