

Title: The Basis of Our True Citizenship is The Bible – The Word

Pastor: Dr. John Geeter

Scriptures: 1 Peter 2:11-20; 1 Peter 4:14-17; Romans 13:1-4

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Sermon Overview:

Pastor Dr. John Geeter delivered a convicting and energizing message. He reminded us that while we may be born into earthly nations and carry earthly citizenship such as American citizenship. We as Christians have a higher identity: we are citizens of Heaven. Though we live in this world, we are not of it. Pastor Dr. Geeter emphasized that our greatest allegiance must be to God and His Word. While we may pledge to a flag and respect our nation's laws, we ultimately stand on the truth of Scripture, which is the foundation that governs every part of our lives. The Bible not politics, not public opinion, not culture is our spiritual constitution. It guides how we think, live, serve, and love in a world that often rejects God.

3 Key Points:

1. The Bible Gives Us Instructions on How to Live in a Sinful World

Pastor Dr. Geeter began by pointing us to 1 Peter 2:11, 12 and Romans 13:1–4 to explain that we as Christians are strangers and pilgrims on this earth. This world is not our permanent home, so our lives should reflect the values of the kingdom we truly belong to. We are called to abstain from sinful desires and live honorably among nonbelievers. The Bible gives us clear instructions on how to walk-in righteousness, even when surrounded by temptation and moral confusion. Pastor Dr. Geeter reminded us that being Christians does not put us above the law. We are to be law-abiding citizens who obey the speed limit, pay our taxes honestly, and treat those in authority with respect because God is the one who established that authority. Even when the world disobeys, we are called to live with integrity. Our obedience isn't for show it's a reflection of our heart posture toward God. When we meditate on God's Word, live by it, and let it shape our decisions, we as Christians stand out as lights in a dark world.

2. Don't Be Ashamed - The Name "Christian" Began as a Mockery

Next, Pastor Dr. Geeter shared how the term "Christian" was first used in Antioch, and originally meant as a mockery. Yet, the early church embraced it with honor. Today, we as Christians still carry that name and with it comes both blessing and opposition. 1 Peter 4:16 says that if we suffer as Christians, we should not be ashamed, but glorify God. Pastor Dr. Geeter encouraged us to never back down from our faith, no matter who criticizes us. Whether we're labeled as "too religious" or mocked for our standards, we should remember that being a Christian is not something to hide it's something to live out boldly. We must take our identity seriously and not be afraid to stand out. Especially for young Christians, this world can try to pressure us to conform, but we are reminded that it is better to be known as a child of God than accepted by a world that doesn't know Him. Pastor Dr. Geeter challenged us to live in such a way that being called "Christian" means more than just going to church it reflects who we truly are in every area of life.

3. Our Conduct Should Silence the Critics Just Like Jesus Did

In the final point, Pastor Dr. Geeter emphasized that our lifestyle matters. 1 Peter 2:15 teaches that by doing right, we as Christians silence the ignorance of foolish people. That means we don't just talk about our faith we live it. Jesus is our perfect example. When He was falsely accused, beaten, and mocked, He responded with strength, grace, and silence. His life spoke for itself. Pastor Dr. Geeter reminded us of other biblical figures like Joseph, Moses, Nehemiah, and Stephen men who were persecuted and criticized but who stayed faithful and let their actions speak louder than words. He encouraged us to live with such integrity that even those who try to tear us down will have nothing to stand on. In how we respond to injustice, follow laws, treat others, and maintain our witness, we as Christians represent Christ. Our everyday choices big and small either glorify God or discredit the message we claim to believe. In everything, we are called to walk in truth, humility, and honor so that our conduct will reflect Christ and silence the critics just as Jesus did.

Conclusion:

Pastor Dr. Geeter concluded by reminding us that while we are grateful to be citizens of a free country, our true citizenship is in Heaven. We as Christians carry a higher identity, and we are called to live in a way that honors that. While we fly the American flag in patriotism, we also carry the banner of Christ and that flag must fly higher. The Bible is our ultimate authority. It teaches us how to live in this world while preparing for the next. We should live every day with a sense of urgency and purpose, shining our light, loving our neighbors, obeying God, and representing Jesus in everything we do. When the day comes that we meet our Savior face-to-face, may He say, "Well done." Until then, we as Christians must live boldly, love deeply, and hold fast to the Word of God our true foundation and the basis of our real citizenship and bring Him glory.