

As you see, these three ~~perex~~ propositions cover a rather wide range, and I think all~~/~~ three are necessary to get a ~~prepiex~~ proper balance on this very vital matter. And so we will take up the three in order, but first I want to deal with the ~~thrxixxthixd~~,^{first} which is the most important of the three. Although it is not an excuse, by any means, for neglecting the ~~ex~~ other two.

Now, the first proposition, then, Matters of politics and Government should never occupy the primary place in the thought and activities of the Christian or of the Christian church. My first point under that would be to note that according to the Bible the primary business of the church is to witness to Christ, not to build a new social or~~o~~der.

~~ex~~ Our Christian church began with the command of the Lord Jesus Christ, and everything that He said is vital to us. But surely nothing is more vital to us than that last great command which He gave. You ~~xmexibexx~~ remember in Matthew 28:18ff, thus it reads like this: "And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given ~~xmoxxmex~~ unto me in Heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and build a new social order, establishing the kingdom of God on earth." Is that what it says? That is a joke. Many ~~xmexmx~~ a man in his preaching and in his activity acts as if/^{the Lord's command was as} what I said.~~waxxtxmex~~. And true, from a philosophical viewpoint, from a viewpoint of human inference, the second verse, which I inserted here, ~~waxxtxmex~~^{could} logically follow the verse which is here. "All power is given to me", Jesus said. Well, what is He going to do with His power. Well, they say, we should establish a new social order, we should build the kingdom of God on earth. But that is ~~w~~ not what the Lord Jesus Christ said. He declares that all power was given to Him, but He said, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and Lo, I am with you ~~at~~ even unto the end of the world." There is no hint here, in His last commission, of a duty to build a new social order, or to set up the kingdom of God on the earth. The same is true of the great commission, as given in Mark and in Luke. We find it in slightly different form in the Acts of