**Always Ready Week 5**

**Christian Stereotypes: God is a Republican**

Opening thought: Was Jesus Political?

*Luther’s Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms:*

Left hand kingdom: Civil government, military, courts, police, enterprise, etc.

Right hand kingdom: The work of the church, pastors, law and gospel, the sacraments, etc.

“To try to rule a country, or the world, by the Gospel

would be like putting wolves, lions, eagles and sheep all together in the fold and saying to them, ‘Now graze, and live a godly and peaceful life together. The door is open, and there is pasture enough, and no watchdog you need fear.’ The sheep would keep the peace, sure enough, but they would not live long.” (On Secular Authority)

Mark 15:1-15

Mark 12:13-17

Romans 13:1-7

1. What tension exists between what Paul is saying here, and our desire for personal freedom we have been afforded as Americans in this left-hand kingdom of Government?

**First Amendment**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Mark 15:5- Pilot was AMAZED. Why?

Because Jesus was came to influence our politics, but he wasn’t a political leader in the same category. Pilot ruled with great might and power to gain might and power. Jesus came to give up his power and thereby change the world. They thought when they killed Jesus, they took away his power…but what happened is that when Jesus died he gave up his power yes…but when he rose 3 days later his power would be spread to every believer and from that power of Jesus’ LOVE…the world would be changed. -Pastor Tim Keller

Rodney Stark: The Rise of Christianity

Romans 13:8-10- **Love is the fulfillment of the law.**