

# Erastus the Treasurer

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- Rom. 16:23 - “Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother.”
- Acts 19:22 - “So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.”
- 2Tim. 4:20 - “Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.”

# Erastus the Treasurer

- Who was Erastus?
  - Erastus means “lovely or amiable”; it is from erao “to love” or erastos meaning “beloved” (Strong’s)
  - Erastus of Paneas was a steward in Corinth; (oikonomos), a political office of high status. It is defined as “the manager of household affairs, or, in this context, treasurer.”
  - In 1929, an inscription mentioning an Erastus was found near a paved area northeast of the theater of Corinth. It has been dated to the mid-first century and reads “Erastus in return for his aedileship paved it at his own expense.”

# ERASTVS. PRO. AED. S. P. STRAVIT



Latin for:  
“Erastus in  
return for his  
aedileship  
paved it at his  
own expense”

# Erastus the Treasurer

- Erastus was a trusted and affluent public official, appointed by the Roman emperor to oversee the financing and construction of public buildings, oversee public gathering, and keep the peace.
- He served the Lord while in office in Corinth, and then left office to travel with Paul and company to preach the gospel.

# Christians In Civil Leadership

- War is contrary to the will of God. While the use of violent force may be necessary, Christ pronounces a blessing on peacemakers
  - Matt. 5:9 - “Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.”
- Political leaders need to make peace with justice a priority and actively seek productive solutions to conflict
  - Rom. 13:3-4 - “For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”

# Christians In Civil Leadership

- God designed for humankind to live in communities shaped by goodwill and cooperation, treating everyone fairly.
  - Lev. 19:15 - “You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.”
  - 2Sam. 23:3 - “The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.”



# Christians In Civil Leadership

- God created us for each other, and our peace and security depends on the well-being of all nations. Political leaders must be aware that healthy neighbors are in our own best interests
  - Ex. 22:21 - “You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”



# Christians In Civil Leadership

- God requires political leaders to be advocates for those who are most vulnerable in society
  - Ex. 18:21 - “Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”
  - Psalm 82:2-4 - “How long will you judge unjustly, And show partiality to the wicked? 3 Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. 4 Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked.”

# Christians In Civil Leadership

- Every human being is created in the image of God and is of infinite worth. Political leaders must promote justice for everyone.
  - Prov. 8:15-16 - “By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth.”
  - Deut. 1:13 - “Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you.”

# Christians In Civil Leadership

- The earth belongs to God and is intrinsically good. Political leaders must uphold our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation
  - Psalm 24:1 - "The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein."
  - Psalm 2:10-11 - "Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling."

# Christians In Civil Leadership

- Christians are commanded by God to care for strangers. Political leaders must fight against bigotry
  - Matt. 22:39 - “And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
  - Heb. 13:2 - “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels”
  - 3John 5 - “Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers”

# Christians In Civil Leadership

- Christians must care for the sick. Political leaders are actively concerned for the sick and injured
  - Gen. 9:6 - “Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”
  - Deut. 17:18-20 - “Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.”

# Christians In Civil Leadership

- Civil leaders must provide an environment that promotes moral and honorable behavior, and that discourages sin and selfish conduct
  - 1Peter 2:13-17 - “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men-- 16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. 17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”

# Christians In Civil Leadership

- Civil leaders must respect God and understand that they are answerable to Almighty God
  - Isa. 33:22 - “For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us”
  - Acts 5:29 - “But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: We ought to obey God rather than men.”
  - Dan. 2:21 - “He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.”



# Christians In Civil Leadership

- Dan. 4:22-27 - “It is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth. 23 And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him; 24 this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: 25 They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. 26 And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

# Christians In Civil Leadership

- “Conservative (Christians) don't want government support for our faith, because we believe God created all consciences free and a state-coerced act of worship isn't acceptable to God. Moreover, we believe the gospel isn't in need of state endorsement or assistance. Wall Street may need government bailouts but the Damascus Road never does.” (Russell D. Moore)
- “God has given our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as privilege and interest of a Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.” (William Penn, founder of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania)