



AAAAAAH!  
CHRISTIANAPHOBIA!

PART IV

#CHRISTIANAPHOBIA **MG<sup>3</sup>**

**Wk 7 Point:** Don't be afraid, believe.

**Wk 8 Point:** Don't be afraid, be encouraged.

***Don't forget to make the announcements to your group this week!***

### Discussion Generators

- What has stood out to you from these last two weeks of the Christianaphobia point series?
- Read Romans 13:1-7.** In these verses, Paul tells us: that God has placed our government leaders where they are for a reason, that they serve His purpose, and that we owe them. How do you feel about that and why?
- What is going on with Christians in Rome during the time that Paul is writing this letter to the church in Rome? **(they are being persecuted)** As Americans what do you think our reaction might have been to the Roman governments persecution? Do you think that is right or wrong and why do you think that?
- Israel, God's chosen nation, fell to the suppression of other governments for hundreds of years because God allowed it. Part of the nation first fell to the Assyrians, then all of the nation fell to the Babylonians. Next they were ruled over by the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans. Through all the oppression of Israel by all of these world powers, God worked out His plan prior to Jesus coming to earth. Does anyone know how God used those oppressive and mostly immoral governments to fulfill His plan?
- God is in control. Do you think it is easier or harder for American Christians rather than other believers around the world to trust God with our government? Why?
- Read Acts 8:1-4.** It is hard to say this, but persecution has historically been healthy for the church. Does anyone have any thoughts as to why?

•As we transitioned from Washingtonaphobia to Armageddophobia, the underlying message to us is that God is in control and that we need to trust Him. How would completely trusting God with your future change your approach to life?

•**Read I Thessalonians 5:1-10.** We often miss the point when it comes to learning about the end times. What do you think most people's tendency is in regards to the end times? (**doomsday and fear**) How do you think a Christian should see it? (**Encouragement and strength to continue on because in the end, God wins!**)

•Why do you think it seems easier for people in general to focus on the fear aspect of the end times? Why do you think that some Christians would rather teach a doomsday message to nonbelievers rather than a message of God's love for all? Why is that a problem?

•During the point we had the opportunity to see a quick run down of the Biblical timeline from the beginning in Genesis to the end times. Did anyone get a chance to take a look at that timeline online and read any of the scripture related to each key period/event? What were some of your takeaways/thoughts from this timeline? What are you unsure about?

•Studying the end times can be fascinating and intriguing, but can also be dangerous. How can it be dangerous, and what should we beware of when studying end times? What is the problem with over focusing on this topic?

•As we wrap up the Christianaphobia series, what have been some practical changes for you in relation to what we have studied?

## Bible Verses

### **Romans 13: 1-7 (NLT):**

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

### **Acts 8:1-4 (NLT):**

Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.) But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison. But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.

### **I Thessalonians 5:1-10 (NLT):**

Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever.