

# FAITH AND POLITICS

## A FIVE-WEEK SERMON SERIES

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### #2: THE CITY OF GOD VS. THE EARTHLY CITY – POLITICAL VS. PARTISAN

#### Definition of terms:

**Partisan.** Feeling, showing, or deriving from strong and sometimes blind adherence to a particular party, faction, cause, or person

#### Images to ponder:



A poster for Barak Obama's presidential campaign, 2008; Reichsbishop Ludwig Müller, with Brown Shirts outside Wittenberg Cathedral, 1935

#### Sermon 2: Main Points

1. Key question from last week: how do we live in Caesar's world as people claimed by God? Especially when Caesar claims to BE God?
2. Using (Saint) Augustine of Hippo's masterpiece, *The City of God* to reflect on faith and politics.
  - a. Key contexts: 1) The fall of Rome, "the eternal city"; 2) Augustine's pessimistic view of human nature
3. Because of human imperfectability, our politics will never be perfect. State's purpose: to rein us in.
4. Today's KEY points:
  - a. We can never identify any human city with the eternal city (The City of God); we can never identify the Kingdom with any nation, ideology or party.
  - b. However, as citizens of heaven, ours is to live and promote the values of the Kingdom here on earth. We can be involved with politics, knowing politics will never save us.
5. Cautionary tales: Identifying our (ultimate) hope in any political leader. Obama? Hitler?
  - a. The Theological Declaration of Barmen: rejecting Hitler's co-opting of the church.
6. Implications: The church should equip us to be political, but never identify its agenda with any party or partisan ideology.