

Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

NE→XT STEPS

“Illegal Immigration”

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.**

Review

In May, we began a new series – “Insight for the Issues” – considering issues that believers must confront during a lifetime. Each generation has its own historical epoch that is unique for their time. Some intellectuals label it *zeitgeist*.

What are the issues facing us in our day? How is a Christian to be prepared to properly face and respond to the constant bombardment of ideas, philosophies, that affect our lives? Should a believer be expected to have a Scriptural perspective or viewpoint regarding politics, lifestyles, and other various issues? Note the following Scriptural perspective:

1 Chron. 12:32 “...***which were men*** that had understanding of **the times, to know what Israel ought to do...**”

Est. 1:13 “...the wise men, **which knew the times...**”

Eccl. 8:5 “...and **a wise man's heart discerneth** both time and judgment.”

Our issue tonight is very controversial – “ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.”

Illegal immigration is one of the most controversial issues in the United States today. Politicians are arguing and posturing positions under the façade of compassion, when it appears that the real motive is simply political gamesmanship.

Next year's presidential election will bring much discussion along with much controversy and the news media will try to influence Americans on the way they should think about the subject. But...how should a Christian face this issue? Tonight, we will consider what the Bible says:

I. THE CHALLENGE OF THE CONTROVERSY

A. Obeying the law, Rom. 13:1

Rom. 13:1 **Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.**

For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

B. Oblivion to the law, Rom. 13:2

Rom. 13:2 **Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God:** and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

C. Opportunity by the law, Rom. 13:3

Rom, 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? **do that which is good**, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

D. Ostracism by the law, Rom. 13:4-6

Rom. 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: **for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.**

5 Wherefore **ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.**

6 For **for this cause** pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Prov. 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but **when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**

Prov. 16:12 *It is* an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for **the throne is established by righteousness.**

Isa. 1:23 **Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards:** they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Prov. 28:15 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; **so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.**

Prov. 29:14 **The king that faithfully judgeth the poor**, his throne shall be established for ever.

Prov. 29:4 **The king by judgment establisheth the land**: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

A new study from FAIR finds that providing education, health care, law enforcement, and social and government services to illegal aliens and their dependents **costs California taxpayers \$25.3 billion a year**, which is an increase of some \$4.7 billion since 2010.

<https://www.fairus.org/issue/workforce-economy/infographic-fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-californians>

Your taxpayer dollars are footing the spiraling costs of illegal immigration

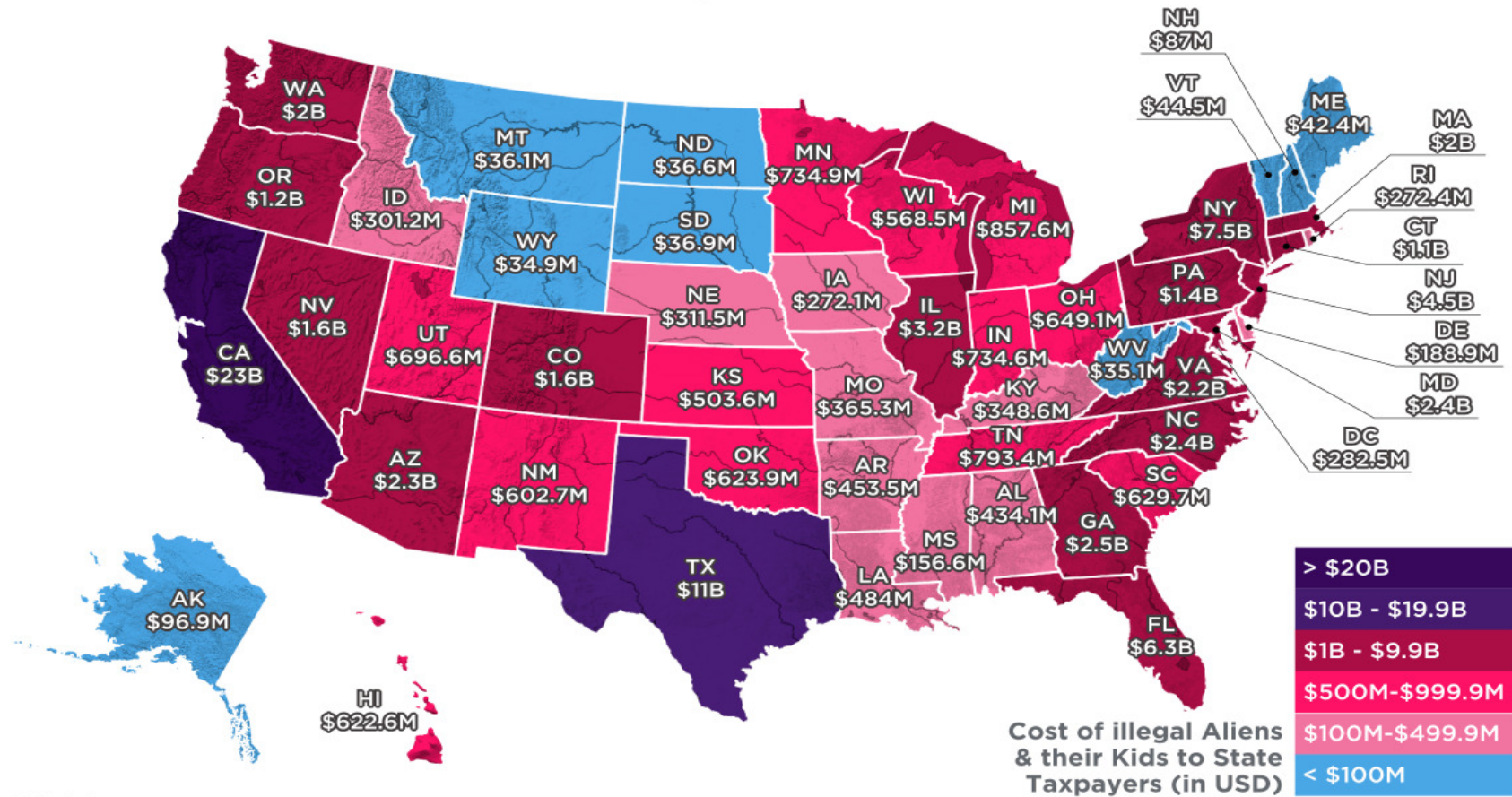
BY KRISTIN TATE, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR — 04/21/19

The costs of illegal immigration are comprehensive. Even after deducting the \$19 billion in taxes paid by illegal immigrants, the 12.5 million of them living in the country results in a \$116 billion burden on the economy and taxpayers each year.

About two-thirds of this amount is absorbed by local and state taxpayers, who are often the least unable to share the costs.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/439930-your-taxpayer-dollars-are-footing-the-spiraling-costs-of-illegal-immigration>

State by State Costs of Illegal Immigration (Excluding Federal Costs)



Article & Sources:

<https://howmuch.net/articles/state-by-state-costs-of-illegal-immigration>

<https://fairus.org/sites/default/files/2017-09/Fiscal-Burden-of-Illegal-Immigration-2017.pdf>

howmuch.net

The costs cover added expenditures for education, welfare, law enforcement, and medical care.

When federal costs are included, the price tag nationally soars to \$135 billion a year.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/map-illegal-immigration-costs-california-most-23b-all-states-89b>

E. Owing beyond the law, Rom. 13:7-8

Rom. 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

8 Owe no man any thing, **but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.**

- ❖ A believer should be a good citizen, but, a higher standard is to love others as Christ would.

II. THE CONSIDERATION OF CITIZENSHIP

Phil. 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end *is* destruction, **whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.**)

20 For **our conversation is in heaven**; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

A. Dual citizenship

Phil. 3:20 For **our conversation is in heaven**; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Phil. 3:20 “conversation” → πολίτευμα

Transliteration: politeuma

Definition: a form of government, citizenship

Usage: a state, commonwealth, **conversation**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4175.htm>

Original Word: πολιτεύομαι

Usage: I live the life of a citizen, live.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4176.htm>

Acts 23:1 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men *and* brethren, I have **lived** in all good conscience before God until this day.

Phil. 1:27 Only let your **conversation** be **as it becometh the gospel of Christ**: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

❖ Every person is a “spiritual alien.”

Eph. 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, **being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope, and without God in the world**:

Col. 1:21 And you, that were **sometime alienated and enemies in your mind** by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

❖ Believers are expected to be mindful of their citizenship.

Heb. 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and **confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

Heb. 13:2 **Be not forgetful to entertain strangers:** for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you **as strangers and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

❖ We must consider all “aliens,” legal or illegal, as opportunities to evangelize!

B. Divided concerns

- ❖ Believers are too often torn by desire to help others, but also, to protect loved ones.
- ❖ The present situation is viewed as an opportunity for poor people to better themselves, but, it seems to be more like an invasion.

Invasion (*noun*)

an act or instance of invading or entering as an enemy, especially by an army.

the entrance or advent of anything troublesome or harmful, as disease.
entrance as if to take possession or overrun: infringement by intrusion.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/invasion?s=t>

- ❖ Believers must discern that some are harmless, but, also many are dangerous that are crossing our borders illegally.

III. THE COMPASSION OF THE CHRISTIAN

A. The Actions of Christ

- ❖ The Lord Jesus Christ had a balanced approach to those who crossed borders.

Jn. 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door** of the sheep.

8 **All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers:** but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10 **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall **grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.**

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Prov. 22:28 **Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.**

29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean *men*.

Mt. 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, **Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.**

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, **Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.**

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Lev. 19:33 And **if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land**, ye shall not vex him.

34 *But* **the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself**; for **ye were strangers** in the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.

B. The Attitude of the Christian

- ❖ Believers must have a balanced attitude when considering the issue of illegal immigration.

Eccl. 3:1 To every *thing there is* a season, and **a time to every purpose under the heaven:**

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; **a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;**

Ezek. 45:9 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: **remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord GOD.**

10 **Ye shall have just balances,** and a just ephah, and a just bath.

Summary

- ❖ Illegal immigration is, by simple observation, a violation of law.
- ❖ Immigration should be accomplished by following the law.
- ❖ Illegal immigrants arrive with a myriad of situations that include poverty, illness, drugs, etc.
- ❖ A believer should not look at the issue and *paint all immigrants with one brush*.
- ❖ A believer should observe the issue from a balanced perspective:
 - Be compassionate as Christ with those already in America.
 - Be supportive of immigration laws and procedures.
 - Be faithful to glorify Christ in all situations.

Conclusion
The New Colossus
BY EMMA LAZARUS

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. **“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”**

Mt. 11:28 **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

29 Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and **ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.