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by Cathy Ramey

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Published January, 1995

First Edition

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Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Advocates For Life Publications

P.O. Box 13656 · Portland, Oregon 97213

Printed in the United States of America

Preface

Atheist, agnostic, pagan, or priest, everyone has a God; everyone has an ultimate authority upon which they base their decisions and filter their view of the world.

For some, their ultimate authority is "the court" or "the law of the land." From these people, it is understandable that we often hear a strong condemnation against those who have acted outside the law, even for a perceived good. Allegiance to their god demands that they acknowledge whatever limits the law places upon the individual, even in an evil age.

In recent history they are represented best by those "good Germans" who could have, but would not, assist in saving Jews during the holocaust of the 1930s and 1940s, and further, felt an obligation to condemn those who acted to spare Jewish lives. The law of the land bound them and demanded that they turn a blind eye to their neighbors being rounded up and murdered in the ovens of Auschwitz, Treblinka, Dachau and other perfectly legal facilities established by the governing authorities.

Though often considering themselves to be "Christian," they are of the sort whose position, in the future, will allow them to justify receiving "the mark of the beast" because that too will be ordered by law. The God of the Bible, in the last analysis, is not their ultimate authority.

But for the genuine Christian, while obligated to recognize and honor legitimate authority, there is One who is our Ultimate authority. When difficult issues arise, even issues which conflict with law, the Christian is compelled to seek answers as to right and wrong, and make moral pronouncement based upon God's Law and His direction as seen through the pages of Scripture.