



March 2018 - #039

Dear praying friends in Europe –

Crash Course in Biblical citizenship: 1 Peter 2:17

Honour everyone! Love the Brotherhood! Fear God! Honour the king!

Honour everyone: Human dignity for everyone, for every man or woman, indigenous or with a migration background: "The dignity of man is unalienable." Democracy is founded on this basic sentence.

Love the Brotherhood: Respect towards those outside but *love* towards those inside the community. A common belief in Jesus creates unity in which *love* is natural.

Fear God! Unfortunately, only 5 countries in Europe mention "God" in their constitution. But for sure without *fear of God*, the whole of European culture is unimaginable!

Honour the King! Christians are both, citizens of the kingdom of heaven and citizens of their state. As heavenly citizens, they are free as well to engage with the state. As citizens of their state, however, they are ready to submit to its authority, and to serve their society.



Ortwin Schweitzer

The New German Government

Germany is relieved and Europe can breathe again: Germany has again a working government. On March 14, Angela Merkel was elected Federal Chancellor for the fourth time, however with a narrow majority of 9 votes only. The almost 7-month search for a new government is an embarrassment in the *political field*, a humiliation for Germany, which has always considered itself the haven of stability in Europe. Such things are not happening by accident!

Since all 3 coalition partners (CDU, CSU and SPD) want / have to struggle for their profile, the cohesion of this alliance is fragile from the outset: will it last for 4 years? And a Chancellor on notice. Succession speculations are in full swing. Angela Merkel's authority has become limited in the national and European context.

But the Merkel IV cabinet is younger, has more women and has a new set of faces. Therefore, in spite of all the birth pangs, we can expect new initiatives from this government: in domestic policy towards digitization, poverty alleviation, education and infrastructure; foreign policy in the further development of the EU together with Macron and the trade conflict with the US.

On two events of the past months, I would like to point out and show how God acts in history. Naturally these are in this case examples from Germany.

Christian Lindner, star of the FDP, declared in June 2017 during the election campaign, that without the consent of the CDU / CSU for gay marriage there will be no coalition with the FDP.

Please also pray

- God answered our prayer for a "mutually beneficial agreement" in the Brexit negotiations. Halleluja!
- Slovakia needs prayer in its fight for transparency in the case of the double murder and the political implications.

So he forced the Union of Angela Merkel to leave her disapproving standpoint: So she released her MdB-deputies from the party discipline to vote in the parliament according to theirs conscience. Thus, the track was free for the chairman of the SPD, Martin Schulz, to force a vote at the very last session of the parliament. "Marriage for all" went through by a large majority, as the Left and the Greens were in favor anyway.

And what has to be noticed today? 7 months of unexpected breakup and failure? And the actors: Schulz – gone; Lindner – gone; Greens – gone; Lefts – high losses in the East; CDU, CSU and especially SPD – all-time low; Merkel – weakened; Populists – in parliament. Who does not hear: "Do not be mistaken! God will not be mocked!" (Gal 6:7)?

The second event concerns Heiko Maas the new foreign minister. Many have prayed for a friend of Israel at the head of the Foreign Office. That happened with the change from Gabriel to Maas, a faithful friend of Israel. "Israel" – also a factor in God's concept. Good to pay attention!

Prayer

- Give thanks for the new government in Germany after a long wait and ask that it is innovative and stays together for 4 years.
- Intercession that Germany should take its place in Europe again for the good of all in Europe.
- Give thanks where we are allowed to recognize something of God's move in history.