



CAPITOL  
ministries®

APRIL 13, 2026

PUBLIC SERVANT PROFILE ..... 2

*Remembering a Faithful Servant:  
Congressman Doug LaMalfa*

VERSE OF THE WEEK ..... 3

*Matthew 5:16*

MINISTRY LEADER PROFILE ..... 6

*Aaron Clark  
State Ministry Leader, Vermont*

ABOUT CAPITOL MINISTRIES ..... 8

# Does Real Change Begin with the Left or the Right?



Real change does not begin with the right. Real change does not begin with the left. Real change does not begin from the top down. Real change does not begin from the bottom up. Real change begins from the inside out.

Real change in society is a result of real change in individuals, and real change in individuals occurs when they repent from sin and cry out for the Lord Jesus Christ. Consider this an invitation to refresh your understanding and conviction about how a person can most effectively change a nation. Falling into the trap of thinking that politics is the source of ultimate cultural change is all too easy.

WHITE HOUSE CABINET  
AMBASSADORS  
AND GOVERNORS  
*Alex Acosta* DC  
*Mike Braun* IN  
*Phil Bryant* MS  
*Dr. Ben Carson* DC  
*Mike Dunleavy* AK  
*Greg Gianforte* MT  
*Mark Gordon* WY  
*Pete Hegseth* DC  
*Mike Huckabee* AR  
*Sarah Huckabee Sanders* AR  
*Mike Keboe* MO  
*Markwayne Mullin* DC  
*David Perdue* DC  
*Sony Perdue* GA  
*Rick Perry* TX  
*Jim Pillen* NE  
*Tate Reeves* MS  
*Kim Reynolds* IA  
*Brooke Rollins* DC  
*Kevin Stitt* OK  
*Scott Turner* DC  
*Russell Vought* DC  
*Scott Walker* WI  
*Glenn Youngkin* VA

SENATORS  
*John Thune*  
*Senate Majority Leader*  
*Marsba Blackburn* TN  
*Katie Britt* AL  
*Ted Budd* NC  
*Bill Cassidy* LA  
*Kevin Cramer* ND  
*Steven Daines* MT  
*Joni Ernst* IA  
*William Hagerty* TN  
*Cindy Hyde-Smith* MS  
*James Lankford* OK  
*Mike Rounds* SD  
*Tim Scott* SC

REPRESENTATIVES  
*Mike Johnson*  
*Speaker of the House*  
*Mark Alford* MO  
*Robert Aderholt* AL  
*Rick Allen* GA  
*Brian Babin* TX  
*Don Bacon* NE  
*Nick Begich* AK  
*Michael Bost* IL  
*Josh Brecheen* OK  
*Tim Burchett* TN  
*John Carter* TX  
*Juan Ciscomani* AZ  
*Rick Crawford* AR  
*Jake Ellzey* TX  
*Ron Estes* KS  
*Glenn Grothman* WI  
*Pat Harrigan* NC  
*Kevin Hern* OK  
*Richard Hudson* NC  
*Bill Huizenga* MI  
*Dusty Johnson* SD  
*Jim Jordan* OH  
*Nathaniel Moran* TX  
*Gary Palmer* AL  
*August Pfluger* TX  
*David Rouzer* NC  
*John Rutherford* FL  
*Marlin Stutzman* IN  
*Glenn Thompson* PA  
*Tim Walberg* MI  
*Randy Weber* TX  
*Daniel Webster* FL  
*Bruce Westerman* AR  
*Roger Williams* TX  
*Rob Wittman* VA  
*Steve Womack* AR  
*Rudy Yakym* IN

*The views expressed in each Bible Study are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study sponsor.*

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

**White House Cabinet and Governors:** Wednesdays 8am (EST), light breakfast served

**Senate Members:** Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served

**House Members:** Thursdays 8am, Natural Resources, Longworth 1334, hot breakfast served





PUBLIC SERVANT PROFILE

Remembering a Faithful Servant: Congressman Doug LaMalfa



Only recently, Congressman Doug LaMalfa took his place among the men and women who gather each week for the Capitol Ministries Bible Study in Washington, D.C. Now, having completed his earthly race, he has stepped into the presence of his Savior.

Doug LaMalfa was a dear friend of Ralph and Danielle Drollinger, the founders of Capitol Ministries, for more than three decades and a faithful participant in Capitol Ministries Bible Study for many years. From his early days in public service—through the California Assembly, the State Senate, and ultimately the United States Congress—Doug remained a humble servant,

Continued on page 4

As important as elections are, the believer should not forget what the Scriptures say about this subject.

What follows are the three most important priorities—according to the Bible—to make in order to effectively change a nation.

I. INTRODUCTION

If believers are God’s agents of cultural change, then what must characterize believers—and especially believers holding public office—for God to use them powerfully and demonstrably to transform a nation?

Scripture reveals at least three specific criteria that must be evident in God’s people for them to effectuate positive, real change. Read on for an intriguing and life-changing study.

II. A NATION IS CHANGED IN PROPORTION TO THE BELIEVER’S FUNCTIONALITY

The Scriptures repeatedly make a connection between the functionality (behavior) of the believer and the conversion of the sinner.

A. ILLUSTRATED BY THE APOSTLE PETER

Notice this connection in 1 Peter 2:9–12:

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

In this passage, there is a direct connection between the behavior of the believer and the conversion of the Gentiles. If the believer’s lifestyle is excellent—if it is commensurate with godliness, the unregenerate will take note and be influenced positively for Christ. This correlation is evidenced by Peter’s use of the term day of visitation, which is a reference or synonym



to redemption in the New Testament (NT) (cf. Luke 1:68; 7:16; 19:44). Contextually, what Peter is stating in this passage is that when the grace of God stirs the heart of an unbeliever, he will respond to God's saving faith and *glorify God in the day of visitation* in proportion to the credibility of the testimonies he has observed. Believers need to function like Christ to influence unbelievers. If our actions are truly good, they will foster credibility, having created a platform, basis, and *ethos* for changing the world from the inside out.

The words *good deeds* codify Peter's emphasis regarding the critically important aspect of obtaining and maintaining the credibility of one's testimony in ancient days. Followers of Christ were often slandered. States one commentator in this regard:

The early Christians were falsely accused of rebellion against the government with such false accusations as terrorism (burning Rome), atheism (no idols or emperor worship), cannibalism (rumors about the Lord's Supper), immorality (because of their love for one another), damaging trade and social progress, and leading slaves into insurrection.<sup>1</sup>

Today is not very different. The routine maligning of believers by the secular media, the attempt to silence biblical voices in the public square, and tares in the church (Matthew 13:24-30) are part of the contemporary personal

experience of many Christians. CapMin's Ministry Leaders are well aware of the disparagement leveled against many of you who attend Bible studies in the House, Senate, State Houses and City Halls as well. So, what is Peter's solution in his epistle to persecuted saints? What is the biblical remedy to offset routine defamation?

Your genuine good deeds are the overriding measuring factor whereby others ascertain your trustworthiness and credibility.

#### B. ILLUSTRATED BY JESUS

The relationship between *good deeds* and credibility runs the length of Scripture. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:13-16), Jesus Himself makes this clear association:

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven"* (vv. 14-16).

What Peter labeled *good deeds*, Jesus labels *good works* in relation to achieving and maintaining personal credibility. In this passage, Jesus states the idea

VERSE OF THE WEEK



### Matthew 5:16

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*



Be diligent to accomplish with excellence what God has assigned you to do.





Continued from page 2

committed first to the Lord and then to the people he represented.

“Doug was not merely affiliated with Capitol Ministries; he was an intimate part of our Bible study,” said Danielle Drollinger, President of Capitol Ministries, who attended the memorial service. “His love for God’s Word was genuine, steady, and lived out daily. His faith was never for show—Scripture shaped the way he led, the way he treated people, and the way he loved those around him. Year after year, he faithfully attended Bible study, prioritizing time in God’s Word even amid the demanding schedule of public office.”

The memorial service honoring Doug’s life drew thousands of people, including Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, to Chico, California, on Saturday, January 24. It was a deeply moving, God-honoring, and Christ-centered celebration of life. The presence of national leaders—including Mike Johnson and Kevin McCarthy—testified to Doug’s broad impact and respected legacy. Yet the most powerful testimony came not from titles or offices held, but from the consistent witness of a life faithfully lived for Jesus Christ.

In his remarks, Speaker Johnson spoke movingly of Doug’s

Continued on next page

of the ensuing conversion of others via the product of *good works, glorifying your Father who is in heaven*. Again, the relationship between the believer’s *good deeds* or *good works* and the sinner’s conversion is on display.

### Functioning in holiness either buoys or breaks believability.

As a person who desires real change on the Hill and in the nation, the function of *good works* in your life is critically important and necessary to achieve and maintain effective outreach in the tightly knit capitol community. What are you doing in this regard? What follows are some additional illustrations of the correlation between *good works* and credibility.

#### C. ILLUSTRATED BY THE APOSTLE PAUL

Instructing Timothy (1 Timothy 5:14) in what he should teach widows in the church, Paul says, *Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach*. Here again is this same correlation. Later in the same letter (6:1), he informs Timothy as to how he should instruct those who were converted slaves in Roman culture.

*All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.*

In Titus 2:5 the theme surfaces regarding how Titus should pastor women. Paul tells Titus to instruct older women to set good examples in their behavior so they in turn can urge younger women *to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored*. How believers function in various settings determines the credibility of their witness.

#### D. ILLUSTRATED BY THE APOSTLE JAMES

James underscores this same correlation and adds a vital additional element to the discussion: that *good deeds* or accompanying *good works* are always normative of true saving faith. He states in James 2:17 that faith, without accompanying good works, is illegitimate faith (to paraphrase).

If a believer habitually exhibits a lack of *good deeds* or lacks a desire to do good to his fellow man, then he should question if he is truly saved. The genuinely saved individual will desire to do *good works* or *good deeds*—the standard operating procedure of those who are genuinely saved.

#### E. THE OPPOSITE ILLUSTRATED

In the Old Testament (OT), the converse of this principle is illustrated in real-life examples.

##### 1. David

The prophet Nathan rebuked King David in 2 Samuel 12:14 concerning



his sin of adultery (behavior). *“However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme.”* King David’s bad deeds were cause for blasphemous behavior in unbelievers. Blasphemy (blasphemia) means “railing.” In the Scriptures, the word is confined to speech defamatory of the Divine Majesty—evil speaking, calumniating, and contumelious rhetoric toward God. Blasphemy is characterized by contempt for God or of sacred things.

## 2. The Nation Israel

In Ezekiel 20:39 and 41, the prophet declares in abandoning tones, *“As for you, O house of Israel,” thus says the Lord GOD, “Go, serve everyone his idols; but later you will surely listen to Me, and My holy name you will profane no longer with your gifts and with your idols. ... And I will prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations.”*

Israel’s idolatry had made the nation a poor witness. In the eschatological, future sense of this passage, God will regather Israel in the end times, and she will be an effective holy witness of Him and for Him to the remainder of the world. Whereas good deeds lead to conversion, bad deeds lead to blasphemy.

**Does your behavior  
evoke belief or  
blasphemy in the heart  
of the unbeliever?**

## F. SUMMARY

The degree to which the believer cooperates with the determinate program of God as revealed in the Scriptures, the person of Jesus Christ, and the indwelling Holy Spirit is the degree to which God will use that believer for His purposes. Changing a nation has less to do with political involvement than it does with living a life in day-to-day functional obedience to Christ. Whereas politics reflects a culture, obedience to Jesus revolutionizes a nation. The bedrock of real change is the transformation of hearts from the inside out.

## III. A NATION IS CHANGED IN PROPORTION TO THE BELIEVER’S FAITHFULNESS

Matthew 25:14–30 records Jesus’ Parable of the Talents. In this analogy, a master gives each of his three servants a sum of money (talents) to invest. To the two who were faithful and made a return on their master’s investment, the master exclaimed in verse 21:

*“Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things.”*

This parable provides a keen insight into how we can expand our influence or, better, what criteria God uses in deciding whether to expand our influence.

Note that the two servants who were diligent to make the most out of their opportunities were deemed faithful in comparison to the one who did noth-

*Continued from previous page*

kindness, humility, and servant’s heart, describing him as “a truly great man.” He noted that in a city filled with powerful and ambitious people, “truly great, honorable, deeply respected, and loved men are difficult to find,” adding, “Doug was one of those rare people.”

The Speaker concluded by reading from 1 Corinthians 13, observing that Doug’s life reflected the Scripture’s description of love. “We could have inserted Doug’s name in place of the word ‘love’ in each of those verses,” he said. “What an example. What a legacy.”

While with his homegoing, Capitol Ministries loses a true partner, and California’s 1st district loses a sincere advocate and leader, join us in prayer for Jill and their children as they navigate their profound loss of husband and father. May our Heavenly Father draw them to Himself as they grieve.





MINISTRY LEADER PROFILE

## Aaron Clark

State Ministry Leader, Vermont



Pastor Aaron Clark first joined Capitol Ministries as a volunteer in the Vermont State House in 2022. In 2024, he assumed leadership of the legislative Bible study, carrying forward the ministry begun by Pastor Rosaire Bisson.

“God’s purpose is to fill all things with Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23),” Pastor Clark said.

“He wants to fill every space of the universe with the glory of Christ. That means every corner of our community, every part of our lives—our families, our neighborhoods, our co-workers—and that includes those who serve in government!”

Like his predecessor, Pastor Clark recognizes the challenge of teaching God’s Word in rocky soil. Vermont is consistently among the least religious states in the nation according to a recent study. Yet this is a challenge he has boldly embraced.

*Continued on next page*

## Does Real Change Begin with the Left or the Right?

ing with the gifts God had given him. The principle of the parable is that all who are faithful with what God assigns to them—even the smallest of things—will be rewarded with greater, increasingly influential opportunities and assignments.

If you are faithful with what God initially gives you to accomplish, He will add responsibilities to your job description, just like a good boss does in the business world. If you want to change a nation, begin by being faithful to your present calling. Remember this biblical principle: If you are faithful with a few things, He will put you in charge of many. In contrast, many are those who are looking for the once-in-a-lifetime home run at the expense of doing things God’s way—hitting singles every day. Work daily on your discipline of personal diligence.

**To change a nation,  
you must be faithful to  
do your part.**

**Be diligent to  
accomplish with  
excellence what God  
has assigned you to do.**

As a result, He promises to expand your horizons over time and eternally change lives via yours. If every believer prioritized being faithful with the small things, their increased influence would begin to change the culture in short order.

A nation is changed in proportion to the behavior and faithfulness of believers. One more aspect of the biblical formula for real change is as follows:

### **IV. A NATION IS CHANGED IN PROPORTION TO THE BELIEVER’S FOCUS**

Believers who manifest actions commensurate with their testimony in Christ, who are also faithful and blessed with increasing influence as a result, need to be intently focused on God’s specific purpose for their specific life in order to effectuate real change. Ephesians 5:15–17 states:

*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

*The will of the Lord* for our lives is already revealed in Scripture. For instance, Scripture tells us that God wants everyone to repent and trust in Christ for salvation. God’s will is that everyone follow His precepts. God’s revealed will is that everyone glorifies Him. Living and not understanding *the will of the Lord* is foolish.

In addition, knowing God’s specific, personalized will for your life is in view here. *Foolishness* is also identified in this passage with the misuse of your *time* because of not knowing specifically what God wants you to accomplish. I can only *make the most of [my] time* by understanding what the personal *will of the Lord is* for my life.



What then is God's specific purpose or calling for your life as a public servant?

You had best figure it out!

Common congressional wisdom suggests that every member who ends up making a mark on America has focused specifically on one or two areas of policy related to his or her personal passions. What is the passion of your heart as you walk in closeness to Christ? While in office, what is He specifically calling you to focus on?

**Starting with seemingly nothing, a magnifying glass can light a fire! But effecting such a purpose requires a steady hand.**

What is the specific area of policy, concern, discipline, or task that God wants you to nurture and conform to His ways in the days and years ahead? How long did it take William Wilberforce to overturn slavery in the British Empire? How steady is your hand?

#### V. SUMMARY

The believer who would really change the world must be functional in good deeds, faithful with the small things, and focused on the use of his or her time with a view toward God's purposes and priorities. Can that be said of you?

1. John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (NASB): "Unleashing God's Truth One Verse at a Time," 2nd Ed. (Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 2020), 1681.

*Continued from previous page*

Pastor Clark has significant experience with starting and strengthening small ministries. He was involved in church planting efforts in upstate New York and Vermont between 2013 and 2024. He currently serves as Associate Pastor of Discipleship, Evangelism, and Missions at Crossroads Christian Church in East Montpelier.

He and his wife, Jenna Rose, are blessed with three young children—daughters Rosemary Ana and Annaliese Grace, and son, Elisha John Godly.

Pastor Clark attended Word of Life Bible Institute in both Florida and New York and graduated from Liberty University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in religion, concentrating in biblical theological studies. He is currently pursuing a Master of Theological Studies at Grimké Seminary.

With a heart for reaching the world's lost souls, Pastor Clark is enthusiastic about the capital mission field where he believes God has placed him.

"I long to reach legislators and see them move from darkness to light—to love the Lord and love His law," he said.



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ in the Political Arena Throughout the World



Capitol Ministries provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, Capitol Ministries has started ongoing ministries in more than forty U.S. state capitols and dozens of foreign federal capitols.

Capitol Ministries
Mail Processing Center
Post Office 30994
Phoenix, AZ 85046
661.288.2622
capmin.org

© 2026 Capitol Ministries
All rights reserved.



/capitolministries

ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES: UNITED STATES

Albany NEW YORK • Annapolis MARYLAND • Atlanta GEORGIA • Augusta MAINE • Austin TEXAS • Bismarck NORTH DAKOTA • Boise IDAHO
Boston MASSACHUSETTS • Denver COLORADO • Dover DELAWARE • Carson City NEVADA • Charleston WEST VIRGINIA • Cheyenne WYOMING
Columbia SOUTH CAROLINA • Columbus OHIO • Concord NEW HAMPSHIRE • Des Moines IOWA • Hartford CONNECTICUT
Harrisburg PENNSYLVANIA • Helena MONTANA • Honolulu HAWAII • Jefferson City MISSOURI • Juneau ALASKA • Lansing MICHIGAN
Lincoln NEBRASKA • Little Rock ARKANSAS • Madison WISCONSIN • Montgomery ALABAMA • Montpelier VERMONT
Nashville TENNESSEE • Oklahoma City OKLAHOMA • Olympia WASHINGTON • Phoenix ARIZONA • Providence RHODE ISLAND
Raleigh NORTH CAROLINA • Richmond VIRGINIA • Sacramento CALIFORNIA • Saint Paul MINNESOTA • Salem OREGON
Santa Fe NEW MEXICO • Springfield ILLINOIS • Topeka KANSAS • Trenton NEW JERSEY

ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES: INTERNATIONAL

Brussels BELGIUM • Porto Novo BENIN • Brasilia BRAZIL • Ouagadougou BURKINA FASO • Gitega BURUNDI • Yaounde CAMEROON • Manitoba CANADA
Bangui CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC • San Jose COSTA RICA • Yamoussoukro COTE D'IVOIRE • Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Quito ECUADOR • Malabo EQUATORIAL GUINEA • Mbabane ESWATINI • Addis Ababa ETHIOPIA • Brussels EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Helsinki FINLAND • Suva FIJI • Libreville GABON • Strasbourg GERMANY • Accra GHANA • Conakry GUINEA • Port-au-Prince HAITI
Tegucigalpa HONDURAS • New Delhi INDIA • Rome ITALY • Nairobi KENYA • Riga LATVIA • Monrovia LIBERIA • Vilnius LITHUANIA
Antananarivo MADAGASCAR • Lilongwe MALAWI • Mexico City MEXICO • Chisinau MOLDOVA • Maputo MOZAMBIQUE • Nauru • Kathmandu NEPAL
Wellington NEW ZEALAND • Abuja NIGERIA • Skopje NORTH MACEDONIA • Oslo NORWAY • Ngerulmud PALAU • Port Moresby PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Warsaw POLAND • Brazzaville REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO • Bucharest ROMANIA • Apia SAMOA • Edinburg SCOTLAND • Belgrade SERBIA • Freetown
SIERRA LEONE • Bratislava SLOVAKIA • Honiara SOLOMON ISLANDS • Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA • Seoul SOUTH KOREA
Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte SRI LANKA • Bern SWITZERLAND • Papeete TAHITI • Dodoma TANZANIA • Nuku'alofa TONGA • Kyiv UKRAINE
London UNITED KINGDOM • Washington, D.C. USA • Montevideo URUGUAY • Port Vila VANUATU • Cardiff WALES • Lusaka ZAMBIA • Harare ZIMBABWE