Will it influence men and women to be relatively better citizens, better husbands and wives, better parents, better children, better civic officials, better judges, better legislators, better policemen, better politicians, better professional people, better businessmen, better employers and workers?

Will it help to reduce outward occasions of temptation, so as to restrain the tendencies all around us to greater and greater expressions of lawlessness, sexual immorality, abortion, divorce, homosexuality, dishonesty, and injustice? Will it help to discourage crime, encourage cooperation, and secure and maintain external order, peace, and justice?

If this emphasis on the securing of external morality by means of laws and penalties can accomplish only some of these things, it is well worth it!

But are these results desirable? Should Christians concern themselves with such things?

If Christians are to be salt and to try to hold back the corruption in the evil world-system; and if Christians are to be light and to try to shine the light of truth and righteousness upon wickedness in the world, and to try to shine the light of the gospel into the sin-darkened hearts of human beings; then does it make any difference whether Christians live in an orderly, peaceful, relatively safe, relatively just society ruled by relatively decent human beings and just laws, or whether they live in a lawless, strife-torn, dangerous, unjust society ruled by evil men and unjust laws? And if it makes a difference; and if external morality, peace, safety, and justice are desirable, should Christians do anything to help make the difference?