

Praying For Those in Authority

1 Tim. 2.1-5

Intro:

All men are to be prayed for in this life as a Christian. The governmental authorities are no exception to this. Why? God wants His people (all) to lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and reverence. As the church of Christ, we should do this because of the salvation of all men and coming to the knowledge of the truth. Our prayers to God the Father for government is vital for the gospel to be preached and for our lives as the people of God. As members of the church, WE have the responsibility of taking our fellow man to the Father in prayer and supplication. We must *intercede* for our fellow man and those in authority. *Intercede???*

Discussion:

1. Great Leaders of the Past in the Scriptures and in the U.S..

- A. King Cyrus would be stirred up by God to do right by Israel (2 Chron. 36.22-23).
- B. In Zechariah, Zerubbabel (governor of Judah [civil leadership]), Joshua (High Priest [spiritual leadership]) & Zechariah (the prophet) all worked together for the benefit of the people (4.1-10).
- C. Samuel Adams, an American statesman who helped shape American culture by giving us the Declaration of Independence.
- D. God would providentially use these types of people to form policies and moral boundaries for all people to benefit from and live harmoniously with each other.

2. Notable Passages Concerning Government.

- A. Daniel 4.17-32 (*God rules...*)
 - i. God is the One who sets up kingdoms and brings them down.
 - ii. God expects governmental officials to fear Him.
 - iii. God demands all to acknowledge Him as the Most High.
- B. Romans 13.1-7 (*known as Higher Powers*)
 - i. Authority and Government exist because of God.
 - ii. Resisting authority is to bring judgment upon self.
 - iii. Those in authority do not bear the sword in vain.
- C. 1 Pet. 2.13-17 (*known as Supreme*)
 - i. People are to be in subjection to those in authority.
 - ii. Those in authority are for the correction of evil doing and doers.
 - iii. Honoring the law puts to silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- D. **The U.S.A. is under a Republic and not a Democracy**

A state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.

3. Why Pray and Intercede For Governmental Authorities?

- A. Because of Their Responsibility to Every Soul (Rom. 13.1-3).
 - a. We want to be unafraid. (uphold the law-gov. should as well)
 - b. We want to be doers of good to our community and society.
 - c. We want to be praised by the system of government. (the Constitution)
 - d. Therefore we should intercede for our fellow man and government.
- B. Because God is the Source of Government Demonstrated Properly (Rom. 13.1).
 - a. This authority is from the Father according to Jesus (Jn. 19.11).
 - b. God is the source, those in government must obey as well.
 - c. The reason God sets up kings/brings them down (Dan. 4.17; 24-25; 32).
- C. Because governments are ministers of God (Rom. 13.4-7).
 - a. They are to be promoters of good.
 - b. They do not bear or wield the sword in vain.
 - c. They are to be supported by our taxes and honor.
- D. Because God wants us to obey for the Lord's sake (1 Pet. 2.13-17).
 - a. God wants His people to be doers of good.
 - b. This puts to silence the ignorance of foolish men.
 - c. God wants the king to be honored or respected.

4. The Benefits to Praying For Our Government!

- A. We have the opportunity to simply obey God (1 Tim. 2.1-4).
- B. It challenges us to remain focused, holy and diligent before God.
 - a. This prevents us from being bitter and complainers (Phil. 2.14).
 - b. It reminds us of the power truly being in the gospel (Rom. 1.16).
 - c. There is more power in prayer and preaching than just voting.
- C. It helps us carry the message of Jesus to all nations (Acts 8.1-4; Col. 4.4-6).
- D. As Peter prayed about the wicked government, so we must (Acts 4.23-31).
 - a. We must be bold in our proclamation of the truth.
 - b. We cannot afford NOT to affect our community for good and holiness.
 - c. We may face opposition, but we have to continue to uphold righteousness.
- E. We hold off the dangers of evil for a time.
 - a. This makes for a better tomorrow for the U.S..
 - b. We can see that the non-Christian has the opportunity to be persuaded for good.
 - c. This will encourage us to keep the hope of eternal life in view no matter what.

Conclusion:

Let us never underestimate the need for prayer and let us always understand that God is waiting to hear from us. We must pray for those in authority and we must remember that God wants what's best for the church and the world around us. God is true.