

PRAYING FOR THOSE IN POWER

Paul instructed Timothy, and the saints with whom he was working, to pray “for kings” and for “all that are in authority” that they might “lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Tim. 2:1-8). Certainly, the same holds true for us today. Realizing the great power that government wields over our lives, we need to commit to praying daily for our national, state, and local leaders. In Paul’s inspired words to Timothy, we find four reasons to pray for those in power.

It is Prescribed

We read, “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority” (1 Tim. 2:1-2). The word “exhort” means “to call for.” By inspiration, Paul was calling Timothy and others to pray for leaders. Paul knew that government was ordained of God to be a minister for good (Rom. 13). However, he knew that government was dependent upon the prayers of Christians (Ezra 6:10; 7:23).

It is Profitable

Paul exhorted Timothy and us to pray for those in power so that “we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Tim. 2:2). “Quiet” means “tranquil” and “peaceable” means “undisturbed.” To the captives, Jeremiah wrote, “And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace” (Jer. 29:7). Those in positions of authority have a great effect upon the lives of God’s children. Some bless our lives, while others are a curse. Rulers like Cyrus and Artaxerxes were a blessing. They let captives return to their homeland and rebuild. Other leaders like Pharaoh (Ex. 1), Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 3), Darius (Dan. 6), Herod (Mt. 2), the Jewish authorities (Acts 4:18; 5:42), and Nero (2 Tim. 4:6-8) were a curse. They made the lives of God’s children extremely difficult. We need to pray for those in power so that we might have peace and prosperity.

It is Pleasing

We read, “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:3-4). The word “acceptable” means “agreeable.” Praying for those in authority is in agreement with God’s will. It is consistent with God’s desire for all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (2 Pet. 3:9; Jn.3:16). As you know, some governments enact policies that aid the spread of the gospel while others enact policies that hinder its spread. God wants us to pray for rulers to make the right decisions.

It is Powerful

Paul wrote, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5). The prayers of saints are powerful because they are onspeaking terms with the only mediator (Mt. 19:26; 1 Jn. 5:14-15; Phil. 4:12). No one else in the nation has this privilege and source of power. Do you recall the situation in Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and couldn’t remember it? If you do, then you recall that only Daniel and his three friends could give the dream and its interpretation because they were the only ones who knew the God who reveals secrets (Dan. 2:24-30). Today, Christians are the ones who have the connection to the God who rules the universe. The prayers of the righteous avail much (Js. 5:16-18).

Each of us needs to commit to praying daily for those in positions of power. Religious freedom, marriage, and the lives of millions of unborn babies all hang in the balance.

Wade Webster from *Eastside Edifier*

FOR OUR GOOD

One of the principal reasons people refuse to submit to God is they believe doing so would restrict them in their pursuit of pleasure. We cherish our autonomy and our freedom—our right to do what we want to do—and resent being told what we may or may not do. God’s commands are

seen as an unwelcome infringement upon our desires; as unwarranted restriction upon our freedom.

It is unfortunate that people fail to see it is in their own best interest to submit to God. Though young children may at times feel mom and dad are arbitrarily or unfairly preventing them from doing something they want to do, in reality loving parents restrict their children—“Don’t touch the hot stove;” “Don’t run out into the street;” “Don’t go anywhere with a stranger;” “Don’t hang out with friends who are doing drugs”—not because they don’t love them, but because they do. When children break those rules, they usually end up learning the hard way that their parents were only trying to keep them from getting hurt.

So it is with God’s rules. The law of God is not intended to oppress us or make us miserable. His commandments are designed to protect and preserve us from the harm that comes when we yield to our own sinful desires. Moses told Israel that God “commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear Jehovah our God, for our good always, to preserve us” (Deut. 6:24). John tells us, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 Jn. 5:3). God’s commands are not a burden, but a blessing. Submitting to them keeps us from bringing the hardship and misery into our lives that comes from foolishly spurning God’s will. Scripture warns us, “The law of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death...But the way of the unfaithful is hard” (Prov. 13:14-15). When we refuse to obey God, we’re only hurting ourselves. How many have brought untold suffering to themselves and others because they thought their way was better than God’s? Our Loving Father knows what’s best for us. His way is the only right way, and it is the best and blessed way.

Tyler Young from *Eastside Edifier*

ANNIVERSARY

Steve and Robin Brown, 08-27.

ILL

Sunday: Dee Adams; Kathleen Camp; Millie Robertson (PM); Debbie Schleif; Allen Scott.

Wednesday: Janice Carter and family.

Allen Scott continues his treatments at Olathe Medical Center in Room 424-1. Dee Adams continues to recover at home from her surgery.

Those battling cancer: David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Remember these in your prayers along with: Millie Robertson and Allen Scott.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Brown family was in Ft. Worth, TX last weekend. Chris Edwards was in Virginia on business last week. Leah Hempelmann was in Owensville, MO until Sunday evening last weekend. John and Barbara James have been on a bus trip in the Western states.

BRIDAL SHOWER

The ladies are invited to a Bridal Shower for Leah Hempelmann, wife-to-be of Trent Thrasher, on Saturday afternoon, September 13th at 1 P.M. The shower will be held at the home of Wilba Hopkins.

MID-WEST LECTURES

There is a sign-up list in the foyer for help with the Mid-West Lectures on "Olathe Day" Tuesday, September 23. If you can provide a dessert, greet guests or help in the kitchen, please sign the list.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 41; Sunday PM, 30; Wednesday PM, 29.

Those To Serve

August 24, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER George Thomas
PRESIDE..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY 27th

SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown
INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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