

Bible Questions Answered

Government

Prayer

Should I Pray For Governing Leaders?

My dad is a subscriber to the Washington Times, not to be confused with the Washington Post. As I sat down to look over this week's edition, I came across some columns that were very troubling to me. They made me think about how far our society has sunk.

The first article dealt with the attack that Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor has come under by some in the U.S. Senate due to his belief that abortion is wrong. That coincided with the second article, that I read, entitled, "Partial-birth bill may face setbacks." This article is referring to partial-birth abortion. The third, and final article, was entitled, "Lawyer targets Ohio obscenity law," which quotes the lawyer, one H.Louis Sirkin, as saying that "homosexuality is a matter of personal liberty." The aim of this article is not to prove to you that abortion, in any form, or homosexuality is wrong. They are obviously wrong! There are those in Washington D.C., and across this country, that condone the murder of babies and the practice of homosexuality. They are the same people that would eradicate God from our society. These articles are solid proof that some of our leaders are in dire need of our prayers on a continual basis.

In 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Paul says, "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

The King James Version replaces the word "entreaties" with supplications and "petitions" with intercessions. Webster defines supplication as "the act of supplicating", which did not help me any, but as I read on it stated the definition as a "humble request." Intercession is defined as a "prayer or petition on another's behalf." Finally, entreat is "to plead for or to implore." In the definitions of these words we see the attitude that we are to have for "all who are in authority." We plead, in a humble manner, on behalf of all men including those in authority, before the Lord.

This passage states that we should pray for those in authority so that we can lead tranquil and quiet lives, or, as the King James says, "peaceable" lives. It is in times of peace that we have the greatest opportunity to spread the word of God to those who do not know it. There were churches during the 1st century that were persecuted, but there were also those that were not. Here Paul is encouraging Timothy to pray "on behalf of all men" so that they may live quiet lives and further the purpose of the gospel which is to save all men. We should also remember to pray for the leaders and people of all the countries of the world, that they also will be able to live peaceful lives so that the word of God may spread. Titus 2:11 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men." This should be our prayer for the world, that every person should obtain salvation.

I often pray that President Bush will be granted the wisdom in the tough decisions that he has to make everyday. I pray for the Representatives and Senators that I agree with to be guided into making sound decisions, and often leave out, whether unconsciously or consciously, those that I disagree with. Occasionally, I pray for those who I disagree with, that they will not be allowed to succeed in whatever it is that they may be trying to do because of it's ramifications on the work of the church or God's children. However, I think that 1 Timothy 2 shows us that we should pray for "all in authority." I've been taking the wrong approach on this matter. Instead of praying that they do not succeed, I should pray that somehow the word of God will be heard by them and brought into their hearts. Verse 4 says that God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." James 5:16 states that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

So as we talk to our Lord and our Father each day, let us ask him to be with ALL leaders that we may have peace, that the word of the Lord will spread, and that all may come to a knowledge of the truth.

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