

Day Twenty-Nine

*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,
-1 Timothy 2:1-3*

Prayers For Those Who Govern

Perhaps the first thing we must realize in praying for those who are over nations, states, regional, and local governments is that they are doing God's will.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. -1 Peter 2:13-14

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. -Romans 13:1-5

Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. - Titus 3:1-2

*They *said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He *said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's." -Matthew 22:21*

While it may not be readily apparent what those in power are doing to fulfill God's will, but

they are nonetheless in those places of authority for a reason. Paul gives Timothy one of the main reasons we should pray for them: **"in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity"**. Those in authority are there for the purpose of keeping order in a nation. Our prayers might be directed for wisdom and understanding to do such a thing. Our prayers might be for the rising up of one that will lead a nation in righteousness.

For those of us who are fortunate to live in a democracy, we ought to be thankful indeed for the privilege of being a citizen of such a system. This is not a guarantee that living in such a land is free of turmoil or strife, but it does afford certain freedoms that are not held on other lands.

Praying for regimes that are in obvious opposition to God's laws is far more difficult. Remember, the Roman Empire was a bloodthirsty and brutal dictatorship that oppressed the Christians. We certainly can appreciate how difficult it must have been for Paul to urge fellow believers to do such a thing. But, we ought to remember what Solomon said about this; ***When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*** - Proverbs 16:7. We find this was true for a time in the early Church. ***So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.*** -Acts 9:31

It seems that Paul had a rather peaceful relationship with those around him at times. ***Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.*** -Philippians 1:12-14 He will give us a glimpse of this at the end of the letter. ***All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.*** -Philippians 4:22.

Examples in the Old Testament such as Joseph, Daniel, Esther, Nehemiah and others flourished under oppressive governments. ***Prayerful Thoughts: Father, we pray for a government that gives glory to Thee.***