

“Praying for our Government”

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth ...” [1 Tim. 2:1-4]

The apostle Paul commands us to pray for our government in such a way that it pleases God. How do we please God by praying for our country? The Bible has a lot to say about government so let's learn how we can please God by praying for our country and leaders.

For our Nation as a Whole

What kind of country do we want Canada to be? How should we pray for us?

Dan. 2:21 “He changes times and seasons; He sets up _____ and _____ them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.”

Ps. 72:8 “He will rule from _____ to _____ and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

Ps. 33:12 “_____ is the nation whose God is the _____, the people he chose for his inheritance.”

2 Chron. 7:14 “If My people who are called by My _____ will humble themselves and pray and _____ My face and _____ from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, _____ their sin and heal their land.”

For our Leaders

Read Romans 13:1-4, Paul's most extensive teaching about government. What do we learn here?

13:1 “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which _____ has established. The _____ that exist have been established by God.

13:2 “Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has _____, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

13:3 “For rulers hold no terror for those who do _____, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from _____ of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.

13:4 “For the one in authority is God's _____ for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Here's a great verse to apply to and pray for our leaders and ourselves as well!!)

Ps. 119:105 “Your Word is a lamp to my _____ and a light for my _____.”

Jesus gives us some insight to. Read Mark 10:42-45. What should we pray for leaders not to act like?

Mark 10:42 “Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles _____ it over them, and their high officials exercise _____ over them.

43 “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your _____.

The Book of Proverbs gives us many insights about God and leaders. What do we learn here and how can we pray?

Prov. 20:26 “A wise king winnows out the _____ he drives the threshing wheel over them.”

20:28 “_____ and _____ keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.”

21:1 “The king’s _____ is in the LORD’s hand; He _____ It like a watercourse wherever _____ pleases.”

11:14 “For lack of _____ a nation falls, but victory is won through many _____.

2:11-15 “_____ will protect you, and understanding will _____ you.

12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of _____ men, from men whose _____ are perverse,

13 “who leave the _____ paths to walk in dark ways,

14 “who delight in doing _____ and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,

15 “whose paths are crooked and who are _____ in their ways.

For our Proper Response to our Leaders

Government leaders will be held responsible by God for how they governed. Likewise, we will be held responsible by God for how we responded to them. How are we to respond to our governments?

13:5 “Therefore, it is necessary to _____ to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of _____.

13:6 “This is also why you pay _____, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing.

13:7 “Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if _____, then respect; if honor, then honor.

The apostle Peter has a few things to say to us about our leaders:

1 Pet. 2:13 ¹³Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human _____: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority,

14 or to governors, who are _____ by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

15 For it is God’s will that by doing good you should _____ the ignorant talk of foolish people.

- 16** Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for _____; live as God's slaves.
- 17** Show proper _____ to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, _____ the emperor."

However, sometimes our government issues laws that oppose God's Word. What should be our response then? Read Acts 4:18-22 and 5:25-32.

Acts 4:19 "But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in _____ eyes: to listen to you, or to Him? You be the judges!

4:20 As for us, we cannot help _____ about what we have seen and heard."

5:29 "Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey _ rather than _____!"

[The Bible verses quoted are from the NIV 1984 edition © International Bible Society]

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