



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn Your Bibles to 1 Timothy 2: 1-4

Title: National Prayers

Theme: Praying for Our President and America

Series: National Day of Prayer

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone -- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Introduction: *The apostle Paul wrote the young pastor Timothy regarding the last days saying - (2 Timothy 3:1)* The Apostle Paul is being led of the Holy Spirit to take the Body of Christ to the high level of intercession for those they love and for those in authority. The truths found in this portion of Scripture guide the children of God to a very effective form of public worship, an act of worship that comes from a heart that has learned the joy of both singing the praises of God and grasping the truths of worship in spirit and truth. The Holy Spirit moved Paul to write “I urge” (*parakaleo*) to indicate the urgency of the need of prayer. This Greek word means to admonish or call someone to do something.

Dr. Ralph Earle points out that Paul is giving Timothy instructions on public worship in today's text. The Holy Spirit wants you to grasp this truth: our president and our country have great needs. Pastors are to call out for someone who has ears to hear and a heart to obey, to urgently pray.

Proposition: *I would propose to you that the children of God can most certainly desire and call out to the Lord for godly leaders who walk in the fear of the Lord.* The last words of King David in 2 Samuel give us this truth - (2 Samuel 23:3-4) Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, gave some great advice that we as Christians need to heed to - (Exodus. 18:21,23)

Noah Webster wrote, “When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public offices let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose rulers men who rule in the fear of God. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect this duty and place unprincipled men in office the government will soon be corrupted.” (Taken from “Pray the Vote, What to Pray For”)

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what clear instruction does God's Word have for us as we live in these last days?*

Transitional Sentence: *The first step to becoming a pleasing prayer warrior is to grasp the truths of four keys words regarding to prayer in today's key text.*

The first word is “**request**” (*deesis*) giving us the application of presenting a special

need or the intense needs of others by making the supplications with the sense of urgency. The second word is “**prayers**” (*proseuche*) meaning to become a house of prayer. This is literally a house of prayer with set times to pray and involved in seasons of prayer. The third word is “**intercessions**” (*enteuxis*) and as it is used in 1 Timothy 2:1 it means praying according to God’s will (Zodhiates) and standing in the gap before God on behalf of others seeking His mercy and grace for them. The fourth word is “**thanksgiving**” (*eucharista*) meaning prayers that express thankfulness to God for hearing our prayers of faith in anticipation that He is going to work out all things for His glory and purposes.

Christianity Today had a quote from Karl Barth that should cause all Christians to grasp the power that is possible in offering prayers girded in these truths, “To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”

Transitional Sentence: *Praying with these four truths upon our hearts enables us to pray with Biblical faith.* Our key text today instructs us to pray particularly for those in authority. Those in authority are there because God put them there – (Daniel 2:21; Romans 13:1)

This truth is so powerfully displayed as we take time to consider the purpose of the writings of First and Second Kings. These two portions of Scripture record the history of kingdom rulers, some were of noble God fearing character, most misruled and expressed a willful unrepentant heart in their failure to follow God’s commandments. Obedience is met with blessings, and disobedience with punishment and chastening. Throughout the times of the kings and judges when God wanted to bless His people He raised up righteous leaders. On the other hand, when God wanted to bring chastisements, He raised up a wicked leader, sometimes among His people or from another nation to take them into oppression. God is the same today as He was in the past and He will be the same for the future when it comes to raising up and deposing leaders. (Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6)

What the Holy Spirit wants you grasp is that the Lord is the one in charge of setting up leaders for a nation. Intercessors for this nation can be humble and pray for a president with the spiritual character of Hezekiah to govern this nation. (2 Kings 18:5-7)

Transitional Sentence: *A foundational truth based on the whole of Scripture is seek the Lord in heartfelt petition for a president that is hungry for the commands of the Lord.* Christians can ask the Lord to lead their president as well. (Proverbs 21:1) The president’s heart is in the hand of the Lord and God is going to turn him just as He turns the course of a little babbling brook that runs down a mountainside and as He controls the rivers of the world.

In his early days of leading God’s people, Solomon expressed the heart of the leader that we should want for this nation. (1 Kings 3:7-9)

In these days of major conflict we need a national leader who understands his need for God's grace and wisdom just like President George Washington who said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." In later years, President Abraham Lincoln said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go to. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day." (Taken from a sermon preached by Pastor Gerald Flurry)

Proverbs 21 is a powerful truth that must be grasped so Christians may pray in faith that God is fully able to put in affect His perfect will, regardless of who has leadership in America. The hearts of men are in God's hand. The Lord can change men's minds and direct their affairs even in the freedom of their free will for His own purpose.

This truth is powerfully displayed in several passages of Scriptures such as – (Exodus 10:1-2) In Isaiah we read of God using Assyria as an instrument of wrath to bring judgment on His people for disobedience. (Isaiah 10:5-6) In the last verse of Isaiah 44 (verse 28) into Isaiah 45 we read of God proving His Headship and His incontestable sovereignty in working through a king to get His will done. (Isaiah 44:28) Cyrus was a king who had not known or acknowledged the Lord, yet God used him in a powerful way. Listen carefully to what God says to Cyrus. (Isaiah 45:1-5)

Christians have every right to pray in confidence for God to intercede for the president of the United States of America, whether he or she is a Christian or not. God is able and will accomplish what He needs to in order for sinners to see the hand of the Lord, to repent, and to come to Christ.

There is much in the Bible about how God moved upon kings to get the work of the Lord done. In Ezra chapter 4 we read about the opposition to the rebuilding of the temple of the Lord. The Lord worked through King Darius to get the building of the temple going (Ezra 6) and God used King Artaxerxes to keep the building of the temple going. (Ezra 7) It was king Artaxerxes who gave the priest Ezra everything he asked for because the hand of the Lord was upon him. God granted him favor with the king. (Ezra 7:6) God granted favor for Nehemiah as well as King Artaxerxes. (Nehemiah 2:)

This country was founded by men who for the most part had a fear for the Lord and looked to the Word of God for the foundation of making many of this nation's laws. However, much opposition is arising to make it hard to rebuild the foundation for which God raised up this nation. Christians can look to the Lord to grant them favor with national leaders so they can accomplish the work of the Lord. It does not matter how good or bad they are, whether they are a Democrat or Republican, how conservative or liberal they may be, the Lord can do a work among them for His glory and the glory of His son.

Transitional Sentence: *Christians can call upon a God who literally is in full control of those in leadership position.* They may look to Him for the protection of the United States of America as well. (Psalm 33:16-18)

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote, "The strongest battalions melt like snowflakes when God is against them." America has been blessed with great and powerful military forces, yet Americans must understand that the Lord is not on the side of those who have the biggest war heads and largest armies. His eyes watches out for those who look to Him as Lord and who fully understand that victory only comes from Him.

In the Book of Exodus we read of Israel's first battle after the Lord God had brought them out of Egypt. Exodus records the event of this great warrior who was going out to battle, commissioned by Moses and anointed by God to fight against the Amalekites who threatened the people of God. This warrior's name is "Joshua" meaning "Yahweh is salvation." Listen to this account of God's faithful servants doing battle for their nation. (Exodus 17:10-13) Here we see how the Lord lays out the format for battling enemies of a nation with the motto, "The People of God" or "In God we Trust." There are those who are trained to go out and fight and there are those who are commissioned to pray. Our way of appeal today is to enter the throne of Grace in the Name of Jesus Christ. Christians are not only to be a light upon a hill, but intercessors. We are to approach the Lord through the altar of the heart in prayer as the testimony of seeking His power to intercede for His people.

Our nation is fighting an enemy right now and Christians should be as quick and steadfast in prayer as Moses, Aaron and Hur. We do not know what the outcome of this war will be, however, we do serve a God who is ready and able to intercede. There are Christians who intercede in prayer on a regular basis for our president, government and armed forces. National Day of Prayer is our opportunity to gird up those who may become tired in prayer and feel like giving up.

Transitional Sentence: *Christians can pray for their nation when they are at war knowing He can bring victory. They can be steadfast at prayer because they serve a God whose plans will prevail. (Psalm 33:10-11)*

While interceding for our President and all in authority there is no need to give God His marching orders, Christians need only to pray as Christ did, Father, "...may your will be done." (Matthew 26:42) Holy Spirit illuminated Christians give praise to God as this psalmist did because they rest in the sovereignty of His providence in the government of the world. The Lord overrules all the counsels of men, and contrary to their intentions makes them serviceable to His counsel in due time.

In Closing: *The Apostle Paul's call is "Urgently pray."* Christians need only to grasp the four truths to praying. They must be willing to pray for those in authority, have faith that God has full control over the president and be diligent in joining with others to pray for our armed forces as they fight the enemy who attacked us, just as the Amalekites did the Israelites. The National Day of Prayer team is asking you to assist them in prayer as Aaron and Hur assisted Moses while He fulfilled his duty in prayer as Joshua and the armies of Israel fought the battles of the Lord.