

Should We Pray for Our Leaders? : Part 1

Copyright 1994 - 2024 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 13, 1999

Last Updated : October 22, 2024

Church Tradition Of Praying For Government Leaders, Offended By The Truth, Unable To Discern The Truth, Children Of The World Blinded By The False God Of This World, Ask For God's Wisdom Through The Holy Spirit, Blinded By Church Tradition, Carefully Examine Your Personal Beliefs, The Reliability Of God's Word, Scriptural Basis For Praying For National Leaders, Pauline Extremists And Their Pauline Law, Modern Church System Has Become Married To Secular Government, Hedonistic Rome And Ungodly Liberal America, Political Leaders Being Admired As If They Are Gods, Pagan Roman Empire Morphed Into The Holy Roman Empire, Christian Crusades, The Pressure To Pray For Political Leaders, Our Separation From The World, Lord's Prayer And Our True Kingdom, Are We Really Obligated To Pray For The World?, Do You Follow Jesus' Prayer Examples?, God Knows His Children

Every now and then, one of my readers will write to me, and during the course of making their remarks, they will state that the Lord instructed His followers to pray for worldly governments and leaders. When this occurs, I have usually made it my practice to overlook such remarks, because in my heart, I know that the plain truth regarding this matter is simply too difficult for some people to receive. This is often due to their patriotic inclinations, and also because they have already accepted the traditional view as it is espoused and taught by many churches and preachers, some of which have, in large part, compromised with the world. I am reminded of the following incident which occurred in John chapter six, after Jesus had given His "eat my flesh and drink my blood" sermon:

"Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? . . . From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."

John 6:60-61, 66, KJV

How sad. Because those Disciples were so carnal-minded, and did not yet possess the Wisdom and the Spiritual Discernment of God's Holy Spirit -- which was given later on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two -- they were not able to fully comprehend the great spiritual truth which Jesus had shared with them that day. Thus, not only were they very offended, but they in fact abandoned Him.

As I said, the reason why many people reject the truth of God's Word, is because they do not have the Spirit of God. Rather, they possess the spirit of the world, because they are the children of the world and think just like the world. They are in fact blind followers of the false god of this present materialistic world. That is to say, Satan himself, who is also known as the Prince of the Power of the Air. It is this serpent who works in, and through, these children of disobedience. In his Epistles, the Apostle Paul exposes this spiritual rebellion, such as in the following set of verses:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

To understand the deeper truths of the Scriptures, we must ask the Lord for spiritual guidance through the Wisdom of His Holy Spirit. If we do this with a sincere heart, God will not fail to answer us. He will fill us with His Holy Spirit. For as it is written in His Word:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find;

knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8, KJV

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

James 1:5, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26, KJV

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

John 16:13, KJV

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Luke 11:13, KJV

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;"

1 Corinthians 12:8, KJV

As I emphasize in quite a number of my BBB articles, it is because many people do not really have the Wisdom of God's Spirit -- including some church-going Christians -- and also because they fail to take personal time to seriously study the Scriptures for themselves as they should be doing, that they blindly, and readily, accept the false doctrines which are taught to them by their spiritual elders. This might be a pastor, minister, priest, Sunday school teacher, etc.

Exactly why is it that some of these false doctrines become so embedded in the theology of certain churches? In my view, it is because the leaders themselves have become creatures of tradition, similar to the Scribes and the Pharisees of old. The attitude of some Christians seems to be "What was

good enough for my Grandma Gertrude is likewise good enough for me. Pastor Joe there has been preaching at our church for over forty years now. So why should I even think about changing what I believe?" And so it goes.

Well, my friends, I will tell you why. Maybe what was taught to your Grandma Gertrude, or to old Great Grandpa Jones, by good old Pastor Joe, and then passed down to you, isn't true or exactly according to the Scriptures. That is why it pays to carefully examine our beliefs on a personal level. Just because some belief or practice has been around for a while, does NOT necessarily make it true or correct. Please don't forget that. I discuss this subject of tradition more fully in articles such as "Have You Read the New Scriptures Yet?", "Are You Just a Baby Huey?", and "Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?". But regarding verifying doctrines with God's Word, please consider the following group of verses:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

"And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Acts 17:10-11, KJV

"Prove [test, examine] all things; hold fast that which is good."

1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV

"Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

Matthew 13:52, KJV

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

John 5:39, KJV

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

Simply put, there has to be a standard by which we measure all things. For us Christians, that means the Bible, because it contains the "sure word of prophecy". Consider this group of verses:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

Numbers 23:19, KJV

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."

Romans 3:4, KJV

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

2 Timothy 3:16, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"

Titus 1:2, KJV

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts . . . For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

2 Peter 1:19, 21, KJV

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Psalms 138:2, KJV

". . . For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven . . . Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word . . . Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of

thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

Psalms 119:89, 14, 160, KJV

To reiterate then, it is my personal belief that it is the modern, compromised church system -- or organized religion -- which is married to the beastly political systems of the world, which has largely encouraged this age-old tradition of praying for government leaders. Now, is there actually a Scriptural basis for this practice? Yes there is. Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote in his first Epistle to his son in the faith, Timothy:

"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; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;"

1 Timothy 2:1-3, KJV

I will be discussing these same verses more at length later on in this same series. However, for now though, let me state the following. The problem I see is that some churches and Christians have turned the previous verses into some kind of Pauline Law. I find this rather ironic, because if there is one thing that the Apostle Paul is well known for, it is for explaining how Jesus has freed us from the Mosaic Law. Yet some of these churches and Christians are trying to place us under a new law based on the writings of the Apostle Paul, who, by the way, I greatly admire. I discuss these Pauline extremists in my six-part series entitled "Beware of the Pauline Extremists!".

While what the Apostle Paul has written is certainly a good Christian practice, as I will be explaining later on in this series, the way that Paul's words have been promoted today by certain religionists is lopsided, because it seems to totally ignore the other side of the coin. If you do not understand what I am talking about, just please keep on reading, and you will come to understand by the time you have completed this series.

To some of the churches and modern religious movements which promote this lopsided view -- such as Turning Point USA and New Apostolic Reformation -- it does not seem to matter too

much that many of these political leaders have no interest whatsoever in what God thinks of them, or what He thinks of their wicked policies and practices. It seems that some of these Christians will do anything to acquire political power, just as the Roman Catholic Church did many centuries ago. As I stated earlier, they have become married to politics.

In this regard, tragically, I believe that we can indeed say that religion truly is the opiate of the people. In speaking of the corrupt, hedonistic leadership of ancient Rome and its sex-crazed citizens, the Apostle Paul also exposed their strong rejection of the God of the Bible when he penned the following lines. Please carefully notice in the first verse that the result of their stiff refusal to retain God in their thoughts is that they were given over to a reprobate mind. The word "reprobate" means to be rejected or not approved:

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Romans 1:28-32, KJV

How much this sounds just like the ungodly, liberal people who are currently -- 2024 -- in control of the United States government, and who seem bent on totally destroying all of the Christian values we inherited from our forefathers. I will expand upon this thought in a moment. As far as I am concerned, the current trend to mix our faith with secular politics -- known as Dominionism -- is simply a very clear manifestation of the false, deceptive spirit of nationalism and patriotism which has swept the world since so long ago. If you are taken back by my comment, or think that I am wrong, just keep reading and you will soon understand why I say this.

As world history will confirm, in some cases, praying FOR

leaders, has eventually evolved into praying TO leaders, or at least admiring them as gods. If you doubt that this is so, think of the Caesars of Rome, or of King Herod in the Book of Acts, or perhaps even the pope in Rome. Consider what Luke wrote concerning the death of King Herod in the Book of Acts:

"And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost."

Acts 12:21-23, KJV

Many of my readers will no doubt be familiar with the Holy Roman Empire. Do you know why it was so named? As I briefly mentioned a moment ago, the pagan Roman Empire morphed into the Holy Roman Empire after the Roman Catholic Church gained control of it. I discuss this topic more at length in other articles. Thus, down through the centuries, national leaders convinced their populace that they were divinely appointed by God, even if in some cases they really weren't. So many horrific, tragic things were done by politicians and their religious backers in the so-called name of God.

For example, we have the Holy Roman Empire to thank for the so-called "Christian Crusades" during which many millions of people were killed. Sadly, there was nothing Christian about it. It was simply the Roman Catholic Church expanding its sphere of power and influence. It certainly was not the way that Jesus taught us to spread the Gospel message. Again, please refer to some of my other articles for an in-depth discussion regarding this topic.

Now, for those of my readers who do engage in the practice of praying for the leaders of their country, I am not saying that you worship them as gods, so please do not misinterpret my words. I'm simply pointing out what this practice has led to in some cases. However, I will likewise add that in the United States of America, I do believe that it is accurate to suggest that some people, particularly some conservative Christians, are made to feel that if they aren't praying for their political leaders, regardless of what kind of leaders those people might be, then there must be something wrong

with them. They must not be very patriotic, or even very Christian for that matter. My gosh! Maybe such folks are even communists! Excuse my sarcasm.

Let's be straightforward here. Isn't this exactly how some of you feel? Please be honest with yourselves. Do you really pray for a certain leader because you really feel led to do so by God's Spirit? Or is simply because it is expected of you, because it is a part of your tradition? Are you merely bowing to peer pressure and political correctness? Perhaps your heart or conscience is telling you that you should not be praying for a certain leader, but other Christians in your circle are pressuring you to do the exact opposite.

I just find it truly ironic, that while the U.S. government openly encourages separation of church and state, tramples upon the Bible, and promotes ungodly policies which clearly defy the Word of God, some foolish Christians still insist that we must pray for these ungodly people. Well, by the time you have finished reading this series, I hope that I will have convinced you that this is a lopsided view, and that there are in fact times when we are indeed justified in NOT praying for such wicked people.

Having said the above, allow me to begin by challenging you the reader, to show me clear Scriptural evidence where Jesus Himself commands us to pray for the ungodly rulers of this present world. Does it make any sense to you that the Lord would tell us to pray for the evil governments and leaders of this world, and then turn around and tell Pontius Pilate the following?:

". . . My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

If Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world, then obviously, ours isn't either. Well, unless of course we don't belong to Him. Now, because our Kingdom is not of this world, we are told quite clearly in the Scriptures that we are not to entangle ourselves with the affairs of this life, any more than it is absolutely necessary, in order to get the job done. As many Christians know, that job is to preach the Gospel of Jesus

Christ to a lost and dying world.

Our spiritual separation from the false, materialistic world, which has been created by the god of this world -- that is to say, the Devil -- is stated very plainly over and over again in the New Testament, as I point out in other articles. Here again are a few Scriptural examples to prove that this is so. This is not just my personal opinion. It is God's Word. It is my hope that you the reader will accept what these verses have to say:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

Why does Jesus say that the world hates us? Because we are not a part of them. That's why. We are not children of the world. So let me ask you a simple question. Having read the previous Scriptures, to whom do you believe that we owe our primary loyalty and obedience? Is it to the evil, corrupt governments of this current filthy world, or is it to the

Kingdom of God the Father and Jesus Christ? There is only one Kingdom for which we are instructed to pray; and Jesus Himself tells us exactly which one it is in one of His very own personal prayers, which He prayed to the Father almost two thousand years ago. Consider the following verse:

"And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."

Luke 11:2, KJV

There it is, my friends, as plain as day. We are to pray for the coming Kingdom of God, which in reality is already here in a spiritual sense in the hearts of the Believers. This is due to our faith in God's promises regarding our own coming Redemption and Salvation when we each go to be with the Lord. This is precisely why Jesus also said the following:

". . . The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

Luke 17:20-21, KJV

In this all-important prayer, which we have come to refer to as the "Our Father", or "The Lord's Prayer", knowing that His words would become world-renown, surely the Lord could have also given us specific instructions to pray for the governments of the world. However, He did no such thing. He only said "Thy kingdom come". Jesus' mind and heart were, and are, totally focused on His Father's Kingdom. Well, it is apparent to me, through His own example of prayer, that the Lord is telling us that we should do the same. It is for this very reason that almost eight hundred years earlier, when the Lord gave him a brief glimpse into the far future, the Prophet Isaiah was inspired to write the following:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6, KJV

So you see, this practice of pressuring people to pray for worldly governments and secular politicians, even when our conscience tells us that it is wrong, is misguided. As I

said earlier, we cannot allow certain Christians to take a few verses that were written by the Apostle Paul, and set them up as some kind of hard and fast Pauline Law. That is just legalism all over again.

In fact, as I clearly point out in other articles such as "Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement", as well as in "Modern False Prophets and Worldly Ecumenism", not only did the Lord tell us that His Kingdom is not of this world, but through another example of His own prayers, Jesus indicated that His concern was not to pray for the world. Rather, His desire was to pray for His own followers. When the Lord was praying in John chapter seventeen, He specifically said the following:

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."
John 17:9, KJV

Through all of these verses which I have shared with you thus far, it becomes rather obvious that Jesus only prayed for His own followers who believed in Him. He did not pray for anyone else. He prayed only for God's true Kingdom, as well as for His children who are, or who would eventually become, members of that Kingdom through their acceptance of Him. The Lord did not pray for the rebellious children of this world, which also includes most of its materialistic, power-hungry governments and leaders, some of whom actively fight against God's true children.

Notice in the above verse that the reason why Jesus says He is praying for His followers, is because "they are thine". They belong to God. The implication then, is that not all are His. As I explain in the article entitled "Not Everyone Is a Child of God", this we already know to be true, right? If they are not even His, and will never be His, then why even pray for them? The Apostle Paul said the very same thing in his second Epistle to Timothy when he wrote the following verse:

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

Should We Pray for Our Leaders? : Part 2

Copyright 1994 - 2024 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 13, 1999

Last Updated : October 22, 2024

Depart From Iniquity, USA's Ungodly Rebellious Government, Prayer Has Not Changed Ungodly Nature Of The US Government, Taking Advantage Of Christian Voters, Why Even Pray For The Ungodly?, Pray For The Sheep Who Hear The Shepherd's Voice, The Mechanics Of Prayer, Pray For Them Which Despitefully Use You And Persecute You, National Government Persecution, Illusion Of Christian America, How To React To Persecution On A Personal Level, Wicked Towns And Governments, A Warning To Proud America, God's Kingdom And Government Crushes And Reigns Over All Earthly Rulers, The Deception Of Dominionism, America's Steep Fall Into Sin And Apostasy, We Are Required To Deliver Our Souls, Political Involvement Or God's Kingdom? Will Of God Will Always Prevail Over The Will Of Sinful Men

Continuing our discussion from part one, it is interesting to note that Paul states that those people who belong to the Lord are supposed to do what? Paul writes to "depart from iniquity". Let's be honest here, my friends. Is that what any of the governments and leaders of this present world have done? Have they to any degree truly forsaken their rebellious, evil ways? Are any of them even the least bit interested in departing from iniquity?

For those of you who suggest that we should pray for the American president and the rest of the American leadership,

allow me to ask you a simple question. Is that what they have done? Can you honestly tell me that they have departed from iniquity, or that they have any interest in departing from iniquity? Do you really believe that God is foremost in their thoughts, and that they seek His Divine Counsel in order to find out what is best for the American people? I was just reminded of a very interesting verse which most assuredly describes the evil mindset of liberal American politicians. Consider the following:

"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."

Psalms 10:4, KJV

In answer to my previous question, you and I both know that they do not seek Divine Counsel. You and I both know that the American government is becoming more antichrist in its policies and practices with each passing year; not only in its national policies, but in its foreign policies as well. Now, before you try to convince me otherwise, please go set up a manger scene on the White House lawn. Or orally recite a Christian prayer in your child's classroom. Or provide me with the very latest statistics on government-sanctioned abortions. Are these the leaders that you say we are supposed to pray for?

As I explain in the article called "To Vote or Not to Vote", the truth of the matter is that your prayers, and even your vote for that matter, have done very little, if anything, to change the American government; because some of its members are not God's children, and they do not want to change. In fact, they are either antichrists and children of the Devil themselves, or else they are pawns of the antichrists, who control them through monetary bribes, and by offering them temporary, earthly, political power, just as Satan did with Jesus in the following two verses:

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it."

Luke 4:5-6, KJV

Some of the people who rule in Washington, D.C. have their

own agenda, and their own god, and it is most certainly not the same one that you and I worship. So don't be fooled by "made-for-TV" photo ops of the president, or of some other White House official, attending Sunday church services. Some of them are simply showmen who know how to play their roles well. They know what suckers naive, gullible Christians can be, and they will take full advantage of it. They certainly know how to win the Christian vote.

My friends, a true Christian and a true child of God, simply doesn't promote or do the horrible things which we see being both promoted and committed by the American president and his cronies. This being the case, why then do you feel under obligation to pray for them? Why do you blindly accept this man-made tradition? Jesus and Paul both said that "the Lord knoweth them that are his", and those are the only ones for whom we are supposed to pray.

Of course, as I stated earlier, that includes those people who are predestinated to be saved, who may not even know it yet. However, He will reveal it to us by His Spirit. He will point out His true sheep to us. After all, as Jesus Himself said in the Gospel of John:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
John 6:37, KJV

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."
John 10:27-28, KJV

"He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."
John 8:47, KJV

I will discuss the topic of predestination a bit more later in this series. You must remember that the results of prayer are dependent upon three primary factors: God's Will, your will, and the will of the person, or persons, for whom you are praying. Even if your will is aligned with God's Will regarding a certain matter, you can pray until you are blue in the face, and God may hear your prayers. However, until that person, or persons, choose by their own free will to

submit to God's Spirit working in their lives, your prayers will have very little effect.

I discuss the topic of free will in more detail in articles such as "Free Will and Personal Choice". As I will point out later in this series, there is clear Scriptural proof which demonstrates that there are in fact times when we are not to pray for certain individuals, believe it or not. Does this surprise you? If so, please keep on reading, and you will be convinced that I speak the truth.

Allow me to reiterate then, that I do not believe that we are under any direct obligation from the Lord, to pray for the unbelieving, rebellious governments and leaders of this current wicked world. Nowhere do we find this in any of the Lord's direct teachings in the four Gospels. In fact, as we already learned in part one, Jesus very clearly said "I pray not for the world." He only prayed for those people who had been called out from the world, meaning the Apostles and others who would come to know the Father.

It simply does not make very much sense to me, that Jesus would clearly tell us throughout the New Testament that we, and our Kingdom, are not of this world, that we are not to partake of this world's temporal pleasures, that to be a friend of the world is to be the enemy of God, and that we are to come out from among them, and then turn around and tell us to pray for the ungodly governments and rulers of this world. Such a thought seems totally contradictory and confusing to me. Furthermore, I know that God is not the author of confusion. For as the Apostle Paul wrote:

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

1 Corinthians 14:33, KJV

Now, in order to be truly fair and upfront, and to present a full, balanced Scriptural picture here, there is in fact one place in the Gospels where the Lord does instruct us in the following manner regarding our personal prayer lives, as we see by this verse that is found in the Gospel of Matthew:

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

Matthew 5:44, KJV

Undoubtedly, some of you may look at the previous verse and say to yourselves "Well, couldn't persecution conceivably originate with some national government, or with a certain government official who just happens to be very antagonistic towards our Christian faith? That being the case, doesn't Jesus say that we are to pray for those who despitefully use us and persecute us? Doesn't that mean that we are to pray for worldly governments and secular leaders?"

Well, my answer would be "yes" to the first part concerning persecution being initiated by certain national governments. However, it needs to be "no" regarding the second part. In fact, I will readily admit that I am not a stranger when it comes to being persecuted by worldly governments because of my Christian beliefs. Quite a few years ago -- four decades ago in actuality -- I was directly ordered by two different governments to leave their countries, simply because I was an active Christian missionary who liked passing out Gospel tracts on public streets.

One country where I was asked/ordered to leave is dominated by Roman Catholicism, while the other country is primarily Buddhist. As you may know, both of these religions possess a strong influence on national governments around the world. Even where I live now it is like that. Local politics are quite colored by Roman Catholicism.

Of course, looking back now, I don't doubt for a minute that what occurred in my life during that time must have been a part of God's overall plan for my life, not only to teach me a few lessons, but also to motivate me to move on, and to do other things for Him. In fact, that is exactly what I did. As the Apostle Paul writes in his Epistle to the Romans:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28, KJV

Many of us are familiar with the fact that quite a number of countries, including Israel, Russia, China, and many Muslim and Buddhist countries in Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East, have all passed certain laws, the purpose of which

is to definitely restrict our Christian witness in some way.

We have read of violent persecution against Christians in countries such as Egypt, Sudan, Indonesia and elsewhere. But as I mentioned earlier, sadly, even in the United States of America, which hypocritically boasts of supposedly being the most Christian nation on the Earth, a great evil has emerged because of the so-called separation of church and state. In my opinion, this view is a gross misinterpretation of the US Constitution, which is intentionally being promoted by some ungodly lawmakers and other wicked individuals and entities.

As a result of this wickedness, over the decades, many of us have watched as prayer was removed from our public schools. Manger scenes and other Christian-oriented displays such as monuments of the Ten Commandments were removed from various government properties. What came up in their place? Statues of Baphomet and hideous demons and false gods. We have also watched as murderous abortion became legalized all across the land. We witnessed the satanic theory of evolution as it infiltrated our public school system. We were horrified as same-sex "marriage" and other illicit relationships were promoted, became common practice, and eventually were even legalized. To make matters worse, the LGBTQ+ agenda has thoroughly infiltrated our schools, entertainment industry, publishing industry and more to an inescapable degree. The Devil's music has likewise filled the airwaves from shore to shore. We fight endless wars in which millions die over time. And we have the audacity to call this our "Christian" America? It has fast become an illusion.

But concerning the Lord's commandment to pray for the people who persecute us, based upon all of the other verses we have examined thus far in this series, I tend to believe that the Lord is speaking to us on a more personal level. I believe that He's telling His listeners -- and us -- how to react to those specific persons who do us harm, and nothing more. If we take into consideration a few additional verses which we find in the Gospels, it does not even seem likely that the Lord expects us to pray for a whole town when they reject our Christian witness. How much less for an antichrist national government? Notice the Lord's counsel in the following two verses:

"But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into

another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come."

Matthew 10:23, KJV

"And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city."

Mark 6:11, KJV

Notice that the Lord advises us to do two things in the face of large-scale persecution. He tells us to flee, and He also advises us to shake off the dust of our feet for a testimony against our persecutors. Nowhere does the Lord counsel us to pray for them. He simply tells us to get out of town before they have our skins. Furthermore, Jesus offers a very ominous warning when He states "It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city." So if there is no indication that we should pray for such wicked towns, how much less should we pray for an evil, oppressive government which actively and continually seeks to restrict our Christian witness or worse? I discuss the subject of Christian persecution more fully in the series entitled "Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution", which you will find listed at the end of this same series.

So to reiterate this point again, I believe that there is a very big Scriptural gap between praying for a few people who treat us wrongly and persecute us, and suggesting that the previous verse from Matthew chapter five indicates that we are to pray for world leaders and governments. I just don't see it in that verse.

Furthermore, I do not believe that the Lord advocates the long duration of any secular governments, which is basically the spirit and attitude behind the act of praying for such governments and their leaders. I view it as one facet of the "God Bless America" syndrome. So many Americans -- including many misguided Christians -- repeatedly say this, either out of habit, or because they really believe that He should. But how can He when she has become so sinful and rebellious? As I explain in the series called "Don't Ever Underestimate Our Spiritual Enemy", rather than blessings, America is ripe for serious chastisement from the Lord.

As I clearly point out in that series, judgment delayed does NOT equate to judgment postponed. Sooner or later, I'm quite convinced that America's judgment will arrive. But sadly, in her self-delusion, the older the USA becomes, the longer she erroneously and foolishly believes that she will endure and stand forever. Quite frankly, it is a self-righteous spirit of pride, arrogancy and false complacency. However, in the Book of Revelation, we learn that Babylon the Great had the exact same attitude, as we see by this verse:

"How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow."

Revelation 18:7, KJV

The only Government that Jesus Christ wants to endure, is His own. It seems totally contradictory to me, for the Lord to encourage us to pray for secular governments and their rulers, when He already knows, and has in fact told us by way of many inspired Scriptures and prophecies, that many of those very same earthly government bodies oppose His Divine Rule. I am reminded of the following verses:

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

Psalms 2:1-3, KJV

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces . . . And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

Daniel 2:34, 44, KJV

"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the

uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Psalms 2:6-9, KJV

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? . . . And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."

Matthew 21:42, 44, KJV

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."

Revelation 2:26-27, KJV

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

Revelation 12:5, KJV

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

Revelation 19:15, KJV

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Revelation 11:15, KJV

To those of you who live in the United States of America, do you really believe that your country is any better than all of the other nations which are smitten by the Lord? No doubt the natural response of many of you patriotic souls will be "Why of course we are! We are the most Christian nation upon the face of the Earth!". Do you also believe that the people who run the government of the United States of America are such God-fearing men and women that they would be willing to surrender their power to Jesus Christ? Think carefully!

If this is what you truly believe in your heart, then I must be frank and tell you that I think that you are deceived and living a lie. You are living in a dreamworld that has been concocted by your own government. You are still living the illusion of "God Bless America", as I mentioned a moment ago. I believe that this is one of the reasons why you still feel compelled to pray for America's leadership. You still believe that they retain God in their thoughts when many of them do not. They are working against you, yet you continue to pray for them out of your sense of patriotic, civic and Christian duty. Can you not see this?

Tragically, this patriotic attitude and sense of civic duty has seriously infiltrated the Body of Christ in America, due in large part to the activities of Christian Right movements and organizations such as MAGA, Turning Point USA, and the New Apostolic Reformation, all of which heavily promote the theology of Dominionism. If you are not familiar with what Dominionism is or what its political and religious objectives are, I invite you to read my one-part article called "Beware of Dominionism!", which you will find listed at the end of this same series. As I briefly mentioned in part one, these movements and organizations represent a serious compromise between our Christian faith and the desire to gain political power, even though the Scriptures do not teach us to do this in any fashion whatsoever.

In like manner, if you honestly believe that Jesus Christ is going to someday say "Well done, America! You did a fine job of Christianizing the world! Here is your piece of the pie", you just might be in for a very big surprise and a very huge awakening. Allow me to remind you that the Lord also said the following:

". . . For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

Luke 12:48, KJV

God is going to require much at your hands, America; because just like the Jews, you have been made a keeper of the Holy Scriptures. You have been entrusted with evangelizing the world with the Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While over the years, many of your sons and your daughters have

been faithful to obey the Lord's call, and have even laid down their lives in foreign lands in order to reach the lost, by your own evil works, you have now proven that you have forsaken your God, and His Spirit has departed from you. Sadly, your wicked fruit, and all of the evil which is now occurring within you, is clear proof that you have very much become a "habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird"; very similar to Babylon the Great, as we see in the following verse:

"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."

Revelation 18:2, KJV

Whereas before you were a bright, spiritual beacon which shone the Gospel of Jesus Christ on many foreign lands, now you are full of darkness and death. Instead of imparting Salvation through a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, now you export war and weapons of destruction, and contribute to the oppression of the poor, and the slaughter of innocents, through your military and economic policies. As if that is not already enough, you export your liberalism, and pollute the world with your ungodly sexual perversions, claiming that it is "normal". How can God ignore these things?

America, you have become a proud, arrogant, ravenous beast which preys upon the poor of the world. Will you be found wanting in the scales of the Lord's justice? Will your hands be found clean of sin and guilt, or will they be found fully bloodied, not only by the slain innocents of your own land through the ungodly, murderous act of abortion, but by the many oppressed and slain peoples of other lands as well, who have felt your brutal hand? Not only that, America, but you have perverted and corrupted the land which the Lord gave to you in your youth, just as He told the Jews in the days of the Prophet Jeremiah:

"And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination."

Jeremiah 2:7, KJV

Undoubtedly, some of my readers will be offended by my harsh words. Nevertheless, I speak a truth which some of you need to hear. I don't doubt that some of you will accuse me of being just another prophet of doom, as your way of hardening your heart against the Lord's truth. But that is no concern of mine. As with the Prophet Ezekiel, and many of the Lord's other messengers of the past, my job is to faithfully share what I believe I receive from Him. If I do not do this, then He will hold me accountable, as we see in the following verses:

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

Ezekiel 3:17-19, KJV

Now, I am sure that some of you American Christians -- in particular, those of you who are involved with some of the aforementioned movements and organizations -- will probably argue that instead of preaching all of this gloom and doom, I should become politically active. I am aware of the fact that some of you have erroneously misinterpreted my lack of involvement in US politics, and my unwillingness to try to change the American system of government through the process of voting, as meaning that I have simply given up hope.

However, allow me to inform you that such a thought is the furthest thing from the truth. My personal choice to refrain from fighting against the corruption of the US government, or of any other worldly government, has absolutely nothing to do with giving up hope. On the other hand, it does have a lot to do with obeying the Holy Scriptures, and having hope and faith in something much better to come, when I am at last welcomed into the eternal Kingdom of God which will never fade away.

In his Epistles, the Apostle Paul tells to set our affection on things above, on Heavenly things, and not on things of

this Earth. In other words, we need to take our eyes off of the imperfect, temporal governments of men, and put them on Jesus, and place our loyalty in the eternal and everlasting Kingdom of God, just as Christ did Himself. I discuss this very same topic in articles such as "The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?" and "One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews". Consider the following verses:

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:2, KJV

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

Because some people do not place their eyes upon the Eternal Realm of the Spirit, but rather upon the temporal things of this Earth, including the politics of this world, they have convinced themselves that they possess the power to change what has already been ordained by God. This is in fact how the Dominionists think. One young person who wrote to me, who is apparently politically active, seems to believe that we can actually change the outcome of Biblical prophecy through our own choices.

In my mind, this line of thinking is a dangerous half-truth. While it is indeed true that we each possess the freedom of personal choice, which, depending upon the decisions that we

make, will have a positive or a negative effect on our own microcosm, I do not believe that any of us can change what has already been written in prophecy. The reason why it is written in prophecy, is because God obviously already knows the outcome. He already knows what choices we are each going to make, even before we do ourselves. He knows what choices the various governments of the world are going to make as well. God is all-knowing, because He lives in the Eternal Now where past, present and future are all blended into one. He tells us so Himself in the following verses:

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past."
Ecclesiastes 3:14-15, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"
Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

In short, the eternal will of God will always prevail over the will and machinations of sinful, fallible men. Always.

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com
<https://www.billkochman.com>

Should We Pray for Our Leaders? : Part 3

Copyright 1994 - 2024 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 13, 1999

Last Updated : October 22, 2024

God's Invisible Nation, The First Century Church Structure, Submit To And Pray For Your Church Elders Who Watch For Your Souls, Self-Serving Politicians, Pray For Each Other, There Are Times When God Refuses To Hear Certain Prayers, Pray For The Salvation Of All Men, God's Desire For The Salvation Of All Men, Brought Before Rulers And Kings, Paul's Ministry In Rome, Benefits Of Our Prayers, Spiritual Rift In The USA, Our Christian Voice Is Being Silenced, A Testimony Against Them, Predestinated And Chosen, Temptation Of Power, Foreknowledge Of God, Children Of Wrath, Brute Beasts And Reprobate Silver

Continuing our discussion from part two, while I have now shared with you my views regarding what I believe the Lord teaches us concerning the practice of praying for worldly leaders, our Scriptural picture is not yet complete. As we have already seen, we owe our loyalty, and our allegiance, first of all to the Kingdom of God. This is because we are the subjects of His Kingdom. In fact, as I explain in other articles, we're actually a worldwide, holy, spiritual nation of born-again Believers, which the world does not recognize. However, God does. Consider the following verses. As can be seen, even the Lord Himself made mention of His invisible nation of spiritual children, which the unbelieving Jews could not understand:

"Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Matthew 21:43, KJV

"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

Luke 17:20-21, KJV

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:9, KJV

While our spiritual nation is ruled from on high by the Lord Himself in the Heavens, similar to worldly countries which maintain governments in order to achieve cohesiveness and unity amongst their peoples, God has also seen fit to set up a loose structure for His children here on Earth, in order to maintain a certain degree of spiritual unity amongst the Body of Christ. I am referring to the leaders, or spiritual elders, which the Lord has raised up for the edification of His Body, the Church. The Apostles Peter, James and Paul make mention of these leaders in the following verses which are found in their various Epistles:

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you . . . Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you."

Hebrews 13:17, 24, KJV

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

1 Timothy 5:17, KJV

"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:"

Titus 1:5, KJV

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:"

James 5:14, KJV

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:"

1 Peter 5:1, KJV

As I more fully explain in the series entitled "Where Are the First Century Churches?", when Paul talks about obeying "them that have the rule over you", he is NOT talking about worldly leaders and their governments. While Paul does talk about obeying secular rulers in other verses -- such as in

Romans 13 -- in the previous verses, he is really referring to the bishops, deacons, and other elders which were set up over the local congregations. I would like to emphasize that these were local situations.

Stated more clearly, unlike today, in which we see powerful global religious hierarchies that are overseen or shepherded by one individual or perhaps by a small group of individuals such as occurs with the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion and the Eastern Orthodox Church, the jurisdiction of these First Century Church leaders was limited to a small defined area. Usually to one city.

In case you were not aware of it, the churches of the First Century were autonomous, indigenous units, bonded together by love, and by their common doctrine of Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. They were not held together by an overbearing, powerful, central hierarchy. This unity was strengthened by occasional visits from travelling elders such as Paul, Timothy, Titus, and other elders who had been given training by the Apostles themselves. Likewise, as we know, the Epistles written by Peter, James, John and Paul also helped maintain common doctrine between the churches. Please refer to the aforementioned article for more details.

The point I would like to stress here, is that it is to these leaders of the local fellowships, to whom Christians are to submit themselves first of all. In so doing, we are indirectly submitting ourselves to the Lord. Of course, in even saying this, I am making the assumption that you have honest, humble God-fearing leaders in your local fellowship who are truly worthy of receiving such honour. Sadly, that is not always the case. I discuss dictatorial pastors in other Bill's Bible Basics articles.

Why does the Apostle Paul mention that Christians should bestow double honour on church elders? Because "they watch for your souls, as they that must give account". In other words, your local church elders must give an account to God for your spiritual wellbeing, and as you can imagine, that is a very serious responsibility to accept for anyone.

In stark contrast, ungodly, secular, political leaders most certainly do not do this. As we have already seen, most of them are primarily concerned with lining their pockets with

money, and staying in power for as long as they possibly can by whatever means possible, even if it requires engaging in such vile tactics as employing secret police, engaging in bribery, holding rigged popular votes, assassinating their political enemies, etc. There is nothing godly about them whatsoever, because many are not His children. Otherwise, they would not do such things.

Thus far, we have seen that we have our own Kingdom, our own global invisible nation, and our own local leadership. That being the case, I believe that one of our top priorities as Christians -- aside from being a witness of our faith to others -- is not only to submit ourselves to the spiritual elders in our lives, but also to fervently pray for them as well. As the "spiritual elder" of my particular ministry, I can certainly tell you that I need all of the prayers I can get. Satan obviously doesn't like what I'm doing by sharing the straight truth of God's Word with you. He really hates it, and he tries to slow me down in the flesh as much as he possibly can.

If the truth be told, with my advancing age -- I am now in my seventies -- and slowly deteriorating health, sometimes it is indeed a real struggle for me to finish writing a new article or series, or to accomplish other ministry-related tasks. It can take days, or even weeks or longer. In fact, I have quite a few half-completed articles which have been sitting on my hard drive for literally years now.

At any rate, the main point I wish to emphasize here is that these local church elders are the real leaders for whom we Christians ought to be praying, and not for those ungodly, secular, political leaders, many of whom do not retain God in their thoughts as we read in Psalm 10:4 in part two. In fact, on a number of occasions, the Apostle Paul requested prayer for himself and for his companions in various of his Epistles. Consider the following group of Bible verses:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;"
Romans 15:30, KJV

"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which

I am also in bonds:"
Colossians 4:3, KJV

"Brethren, pray for us."
1 Thessalonians 5:25, KJV

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord
may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with
you:"
2 Thessalonians 3:1, KJV

"Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all
things willing to live honestly."
Hebrews 13:18, KJV

Of course, prayer is likewise reciprocal in nature. In other
words, just as Paul asked the brethren to pray for him, he
likewise prayed for them, and encouraged them to pray for
each other. The Apostle James also tells us that we should
pray over our sick brethren. Consider the following group of
Bible verses:

"For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the
gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of
you always in my prayers;"
Romans 1:9, KJV

"Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in
my prayers;"
Ephesians 1:16, KJV

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the
Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and
supplication for all saints;"
Ephesians 6:18, KJV

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not
cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled
with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual
understanding;"
Colossians 1:9, KJV

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth
you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye
may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

Colossians 4:12, KJV

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;"

1 Thessalonians 1:2, KJV

"I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;"

2 Timothy 1:3, KJV

"I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,"

Philemon 1:4, KJV

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

James 5:14-15, KJV

From all of the verses I have shared thus far, it becomes rather evident that the Lord and His Apostles have left us with a clear example regarding our prayer life. We have seen that we are supposed to pray for our coming Kingdom. We are supposed to pray for our spiritual elders. And we are also to pray for each other. In addition to this, we are to pray for those people who persecute us, in the hope that they'll turn from their wicked ways. If we pray unselfishly in this manner, the Lord will certainly hear us; for in quoting from the thirty-fourth Psalm, the Apostle Peter wrote thusly:

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

1 Peter 3:12, KJV

"The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

Psalms 34:15-18, KJV

Notice that while the Lord does indeed hear the prayers of His righteous children, He turns away His ear when it comes to the wicked. In other words, believe it or not, but God doesn't even listen to their prayers. He just ignores them. In fact, as I explain in "Beholding the Evil and the Good", the Lord will even temporarily turn His face away from His very own children whenever they are overly disobedient and rebellious. Now that's a sobering thought, isn't it?

You may recall that in part one of this series, I shared the following verse where the Apostle Paul informs us that the Lord's children are to depart from iniquity. If we do this, and delight ourselves in Him, He will hear our prayers and give us the desires of our hearts. I have added several more verses to the group below for your personal consideration:

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Psalms 37:4, KJV

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:"

Isaiah 59:1, KJV

While I have now presented a preponderance of Scriptural evidence to explain why I am personally convinced that we are under no obligation to pray for the wicked leaders of this world, there is one place in the entire New Testament, where the Apostle Paul does exhort us to pray for all men, including for the leaders of the world. More specifically, he encourages us to pray for their Salvation.

Of course, this is as it should be, because the whole reason God placed us on this Earth, is to be a witness of our faith to others. For those of you who may be interested, I discuss the full scope of God's plan of Salvation in the article "Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?". In his first

Epistle to Timothy, his dear son in the faith, the Apostle Paul writes the following:

"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; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."
1 Timothy 2:1-6, KJV

As I pointed out a moment ago, Paul is clearly encouraging us to pray for the Salvation of all men, regardless of their social status. Whether one is a king, or a pauper, he still requires the Lord's Salvation, because we have all sinned. As you may know, it was this burning desire in Paul's heart, which eventually led him to the heart of the Roman Empire. Paul's words go hand-in-hand with what the Apostle Peter wrote in his second Epistle, as we see by this verse:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
2 Peter 3:9, KJV

In His infinite love and mercy, God wants to give all of us a chance at Salvation, whether we will hear, or whether we will forebear. As you may already know, the fact that Paul was imprisoned in Jerusalem, taken to Rome, brought before Emperor Nero on several occasions, and was even able to be a faithful witness to Nero's household for about two years, was itself the fulfillment of a prophecy which had spoken by the Lord Himself, both in the Gospels, as well as in the Book of Acts. Consider the following group of Bible verses:

"But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them."
Mark 13:9, KJV

"Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

Acts 9:13-16, KJV

In addition to the fact that Paul says that we should pray for the Salvation of all men, why does he specifically tell us that we should pray "for kings, and for all that are in authority"? Quite simply, because in the long run, it may prove to be to our own benefit if they accept the Lord. As Paul wrote, "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty".

In other words, my understanding of Paul's words is that if our prayers help to win some worldly leaders to the Lord -- in which case they would hopefully become more yielded to His Spirit -- then there is the possibility that we might be able to live quiet, peaceable lives under those authorities, with minimal persecution.

While this is indeed a wonderful thought, the truth of the matter is that we -- the Children of Light -- are unable to live a harmonious existence with the children of darkness for very long; unless of course we compromise our Christian convictions. If you doubt that this is so, have a good look at the spiritual situation which exists in the United States today. The clear rift between the Children of Light and the children of darkness could not be any more apparent. They don't even try to hide their sins and their defiance against the Lord anymore. It is right out there in the open for all to see, as many of you will already know.

At any rate, the Apostle Paul was not willing to compromise in the least. Despite knowing the potential consequences of his actions, he chose to remain bold in his witness. Thus, the crazed Roman emperor, Nero -- who not only burned Rome, but who likewise later committed suicide -- eventually had the Apostle Paul beheaded in order to silence his testimony.

While I obviously don't know the future, I do have to wonder

where the situation is headed in the United States. As the children of darkness become even more wicked, and tragically, increasingly defiant against the Lord, it compels some of us Christians to speak out more strongly against them. I myself have used my writing ministry for decades now to expose what is happening in that country. But as many of my Christian brethren have likewise experienced firsthand, our voices are slowly being silenced by way of outright censorship in the news, filtered search results in Internet search engines, and intentional shadow banning on the social networks.

This brings us to another interesting point, and striking truth concerning our witness to kings, presidents, prime ministers and other government authorities. Exactly why did Jesus say that His followers would be brought before these dignitaries? Was it so that they could all accept the Lord, and so that we could all be one happy, universal Christian family?

Sadly, no, not by any means. That is not what the Lord said. What He did in fact say was "for a testimony against them". Isn't that amazing? As I stated earlier, the Lord knows the end of the story from the very beginning. He already knows the decision that we each are going to make when it comes to our chance for Salvation. As I explain in other articles, I believe that this is one of the reasons why the Lord knows those who are His, and why the Apostle Paul tells us that we are predestinated, as we can see by the following verses:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11, KJV

As we have already seen, because of His own Righteousness,

and because of His Divine Love for His creations, God wants to give everyone a chance to acquire Salvation, even those wicked people who are in charge of the governments of this current world. But He already knows what they will choose. This reminds me of what I asked you in part two concerning whether or not you believe the rulers of this world would willingly surrender all of their power to Jesus Christ. Do you still have any doubts regarding what the answer is?

While Jesus was spiritually strong enough to resist Satan's temptations when he offered Him all of the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, as I mentioned in part one, like the backslider Demas who left the Apostle Paul for the ways of the world, the wicked men of this world jump at such an opportunity, preferring temporal Earthly riches, fame and power, instead of the as-yet-unseen eternal rewards of our Heavenly Kingdom. Consider the following group of verses, some of which I shared with you in part one of this series:

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it."
Luke 4:5-6, KJV

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."
2 Timothy 4:10, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."
1 John 2:15-16, KJV

While I cannot conclusively prove this point, perhaps this is one of the reasons why when Jesus offered prayers to His Father in John 17, He only prayed for His followers, and not for the world, because as He said, "for they are thine". And as Paul also wrote, "The Lord knoweth them that are his".

As I mentioned in part one, the only ones who can be a part

of the Lord's Kingdom, are those whom His Father has given Him. Well, based upon the previous verses, it seems that the only ones which the Father can give to Jesus, are those who are predestinated to be a part of His Kingdom. Is that easy for you to understand? If not, please read it again more slowly.

Just as Jesus already knew ahead of time that Judas would make the wrong choice and betray Him, the Lord apparently already knows where the line is drawn between the sheep and the goats, and between the wheat and the tares, even though not everyone has made their choice yet here in our physical realm of time and space. As I shared with you earlier, the Apostle Paul wrote "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate". So God definitely has foreknowledge of the events, and perhaps of the decisions we will make as well. As we also previously read in part two, the Prophet Isaiah likewise wrote "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done."

Because the score is apparently already settled in Heaven, I am inclined to believe that this may be why the Lord did not leave us with any specific instructions regarding praying for the children of the world and their ungodly leaders. It may even be possible that just as the Apostle Paul referred to the unbelieving Jews of the First Century as the children of disobedience and the children of wrath because they were destined to face God's judgments and wrath in 70 AD due to their foolish rejection of Christ, this modern generation of unbelievers and defiant mockers may face a similar situation.

In other words, if what I am suggesting is true, the Lord already knows that no matter how many times some people are witnessed to, or how long they are witnessed to, they will still not have a change of heart. They will still continue in their rebellious ways until it is too late for them. As Jesus told the unbelieving Jews who rejected Him, they will die in their sins. They are brute beasts meant to be destroyed. They are reprobate silver which will be cast off, because they've been totally rejected by the Lord. Consider this group of sobering Bible verses:

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE:

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the CHILDREN OF WRATH, even as others."

Ephesians 2:2-3, KJV

"But these, as natural brute beasts, MADE TO BE TAKEN AND DESTROYED, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall UTTERLY PERISH in their own corruption;"

2 Peter 2:12, KJV

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come . . . I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

John 8:21, 24, KJV

"They are all grievous revolters, walking with slanders: they are brass and iron; they are all corrupters. The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed of the fire; the founder melteth in vain: for the wicked are not plucked away. REPROBATE SILVER shall men call them, because THE LORD HATH REJECTED THEM."

Jeremiah 6:28-30, KJV

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . For our God is a CONSUMING FIRE."

Hebrews 10:31, 12:29, KJV

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works . . . And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the LAKE OF FIRE."

Revelation 20:12, 15, KJV

Wow! Those verses just really hit me! They really impress upon me the seriousness of rejecting Jesus Christ. If we are foolish enough to reject His love and mercy, then He will reject us as well, and that is where we will end up!

Please go to part four for the continuation of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

Should We Pray for Our Leaders? : Part 4

Copyright 1994 - 2024 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 13, 1999

Last Updated : October 22, 2024

Global Propagation Of The Gospel, Light Of The World, World Without Any Excuse, Jewish Repression Of The Gospel, Philip And The Ethiopian Eunuch, Faithful In Preaching The Gospel, King Agrippa And The Lord's Sad Disappointments, Justified Or Condemned, The Snare Of Earthly Riches, God Alone Sets Up Kings, God's Vessels Of Wrath "Fitted To Destruction", God Hardens Pharaoh's Heart, Nebuchadnezzar: My Servant, Tide Is Changing, Persecuted For Our Witness, Stuffed Turkey Analogy

Continuing our discussion from part three, I daresay that there are very few countries left in the world today, if in fact there are any at all, where at least some of the people have not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ at some point in their lives. Christian beliefs are now so well known, and have been so widely propagated by so many different means, and in so many different languages, that it is almost next to impossible to escape hearing about them altogether. No country is so repressive, or so tightly controlled, that it can block out the Light entirely. I think that there are at least a few pinholes where the Light of the Gospel has been able to penetrate into the remaining pockets of spiritual darkness, no matter how hard their evil leaders have tried to block it out. As I explain in "Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?", that is all that is required to ignite the spiritual fire. I'm reminded of verses such as the following:

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it."

Psalms 68:11, KJV

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Isaiah 9:2, KJV

"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house."

Isaiah 42:5-7, KJV

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

John 1:4-9, KJV

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8:12, KJV

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 9:5, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth . . . I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

John 12:35, 46, KJV

In similar fashion, I seriously doubt that there are very

many leaders left in the world today, if any at all, who have not heard the Good News of Salvation. As I was writing this series, the thought occurred to me how many government officials have been exposed to our Western culture. In some cases, this has been due to their diplomatic missions to the West, or else due to Western government officials visiting their country. In other instances, there are certain world leaders who have received several years of military training or schooling in the West, such as in Great Britain, or else in the United States of America. And yet other leaders have come to the West for medical treatment. All of this presents opportunities for them to be exposed to our Christian faith to varying degrees. Even if they just happen to see a church building during a tour, it is still a reminder of our Christian beliefs.

To take this a step further, even if a certain world leader has never ever left his own country, Christian missionaries and Christian shortwave radio programs have penetrated the vast majority of the world's nations. In addition to this, many Christians have served as English teachers in foreign countries, and all world leaders must surely keep a personal eye on international news and world developments in order to decide their national and international policies.

Throughout all of this activity and these opportunities, said leaders are exposed to some form of Christianity. As I point out in other BBB articles, even if it were possible to somehow ignore the Christian witness through these various opportunities, no one can possibly miss the witness that God provides for them directly, the minute that they go outside and look at His wonderful natural Creation. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Romans:

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

Romans 1:20, KJV

In short then, I believe that both the world's leaders, and the people they govern, are all accountable to God. As Paul states, we are living in a world without excuse. It is truly sad then, when certain powerful leaders make such a wrong choice by not only personally rejecting the Gospel, but also

by intentionally repressing any efforts to share the Good News of Salvation with their own people. In fact, as you may know, in his Epistles, the Apostle Paul accuses the Jews of doing this very thing, as did Jesus in the Gospels. Consider the following Bible verses:

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

Matthew 23:13, KJV

"And when they had brought them [the Apostles], they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, DID NOT WE STRAITLY COMMAND YOU THAT YE SHOULD NOT TEACH IN THIS NAME? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

Acts 5:27-28, KJV

"For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: FORBIDDING US TO SPEAK TO THE GENTILES THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16, KJV

"Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done [meaning Christ's Resurrection]. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day."

Matthew 28:11-15, KJV

At any rate, think of how much good these rebellious leaders could do if they were to simply accept the Lord into their lives. They could influence their entire country in a very

positive way. They could be extremely instrumental in the Salvation of their entire nation, and the Lord would surely bless them for it. I am reminded of the wonderful story of the Ethiopian eunuch which we find in Acts chapter eight:

"And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

Acts 8:26-39, KJV

As I relate in other articles, it is believed by some Bible scholars that it was due in part to this man's faithfulness to return to his native land, and to witness to the royal court of the Ethiopian Queen Candace, that Ethiopia became one of the first Christianized nations in Africa. In His Divine Wisdom, the Lord made this eunuch a steward of His Word, and this man was found faithful. As the Apostle Paul

wrote, and as Jesus also said:

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

1 Corinthians 4:2, KJV

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Matthew 25:21, KJV

"And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities."

Luke 19:17, KJV

On the other hand, we have the sad, sad case of foolish King Agrippa, also found in the Book of Acts. We are all familiar with the sad lament "If I only had". In this case, after Paul had faithfully witnessed to this Jewish king, we find this worldly leader responding in the following manner:

"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

Acts 26:28, KJV

What a tragedy, and what a disappointment to the Lord! If I may be so bold, what the king was really saying to Paul was "Almost Paul, but not quite. You've almost convinced me to accept your Jesus and become a Christian, but I just can't do it. You have delivered one powerful testimony here today, but this worldly position of power and wealth is just too difficult for me to give up."

Remember again what I shared with you earlier in this series. Why did Jesus say that His followers would be made to appear before kings and other powerful people who were in positions of authority? In order to be a testimony against them. You see, when they reject our witness, when they reject the light of the Gospel, they not only no longer have a cloak for their sin and rebellion, but they likewise condemn themselves, as we can see by this set of Bible verses:

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had

sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."

John 15:22, KJV

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd."

John 3:19-20, KJV

So as you can see, we don't even have to do it for them. All we have to do is to be faithful to deliver God's message to them, and then they are the ones who choose either life or death, and justification or condemnation. It's their choice. This very same principle applies to every single person to whom we witness. In the case of King Agrippa, and other men like him, you may recall that Jesus also said the following in the Gospels:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:19-21, KJV

". . . Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Matthew 19:23-24, KJV

". . . Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!"

Mark 10:24, KJV

As I point out in other BBB articles, in their Epistles, the Apostles Paul and James likewise inform us how not only will the rich and the elite experience problems in this life due to their accumulated wealth, but their very same wealth -- which they sometimes obtain by less than honorable means -- will actually serve as a testimony against them in the Day of Judgment. Consider the following group of verses which verify these points:

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

1 Timothy 6:10, KJV

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."

James 5:1-7, KJV

Unless I am mistaken, this king in Acts chapter eight was Herod Agrippa II, whose father -- who was known as Agrippa I or Herod Antipas -- was eaten up by worms, as I mentioned in part one. Antipas had already angered the Lord by severely persecuting the Church. His wicked actions included beheading James, and imprisoning Peter and other of the Disciples. When Antipas failed to give the Lord the credit for his position of earthly power, similar to foolish King Nebuchadnezzar who we find discussed in various books of the Old Testament, who was also severely humbled by the Lord, apparently God felt that Antipas had gone too far. Thus he became a meal for the worms.

As I explain in a number of my BBB articles, the Scriptures make it very clear that no earthly leader can rise to power, unless God permits him to do so, in order to accomplish His own Divine Purposes. Please consider the following verses:

"Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth

down one, and setteth up another."

Psalms 75:5-7, KJV

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:"

Daniel 2:20-21, KJV

"This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."

Daniel 4:17, KJV

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."

Proverbs 21:1, KJV

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."

1 Samuel 15:23-26, KJV

What may be difficult for some of you to understand, is that the Scriptures plainly tell us that God will purposely raise up certain leaders to be His vessels of wrath. As I point out in other articles, such as in the series "The Fruits of Disobedience" and "The Children of God and Politics", this was surely the case with Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, who served as the Lord's scourge against apostate Israel. We see the same thing happening with other enemies of the ancient Israelite nation, such as the Egyptians, the Philistines, the Midianites, the Assyrians, the Romans, etc.

If you read the Old Testament carefully, you will discover a number of clear examples where the Lord -- speaking through the mouths of His Prophets -- tells the rebellious nation of Israel, that He is going to send a certain king and nation upon them, in order to punish them for their sins. Once said nations accomplished their purpose, the Lord then destroyed those nations as well through their enemies. In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul explains the case of the Egyptian pharaoh who enslaved the descendants of Jacob:

"For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,"
Romans 9:17-23, KJV

Please notice that the Apostle Paul states that some vessels are in fact "fitted to destruction". In other words, just as I said a moment ago, these "vessels of wrath" were meant for destruction from the very start. God used the Egyptian king to fulfill His divine purposes when He revealed His mighty power through the Ten Plagues which were sent upon the land of Egypt. As many of us already know, these events occurred after pharaoh hardened his heart and absolutely refused to free the Hebrew slaves. Of course, it was God Himself who hardened the Egyptian king's heart, as we can determine by the following group of verses:

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."
Proverbs 21:1, KJV

"And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before

Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go."

Exodus 4:21, KJV

"And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt."

Exodus 7:3, KJV

"And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so . . . And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen."

Exodus 14:4, 17, KJV

But following the Ten Plagues and the pharaoh's heart being hardened by Lord, and the Hebrew slaves being liberated from Egyptian bondage, what happened next? As most Christians -- and even many worldly people -- know, the Egyptian army was destroyed in the Red Sea. According to what Paul wrote about vessels of wrath being fitted to destruction, as I said, it would seem that drowning in the Red Sea had always been the destiny of the Egyptian army from the very start.

Regarding the Babylonian invasions of Israel centuries later, it might interest you to know that even though Nebuchadnezzar was a pagan, conquering king, in the Scriptures, three times the Lord referred to him as "my servant". Why would the Lord do this? Quite simply, because Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilling God's Will by invading Israel, and serving as God's scourge against the apostate Israelites who were even engaged in the practice of sacrificing their very own children to the false gods. Consider the following group of verses which verify this point:

"Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, MY SERVANT, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations."

Jeremiah 25:7, KJV

"And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, MY SERVANT; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him."
Jeremiah 27:6, KJV

"Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying, Take great stones in thine hand, and hide them in the clay in the brickkiln, which is at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah; And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, MY SERVANT, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them. And when he cometh, he shall smite the land of Egypt, and deliver such as are for death to death; and such as are for captivity to captivity; and such as are for the sword to the sword."
Jeremiah 43:8-11, KJV

Of course, just as I described earlier, once Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians had fulfilled God's Will against the Israelites, with time, the Babylonians lost power to the Medes and the Persians. Thus, the cycle of vessels "fitted to destruction" continued.

In light of all of this revelatory information, you may be interested in reading my article "The Holocaust: Did God Make a Mistake?". I present some challenging Scriptural views which you will not often hear within the churches of organized religion.

Returning to Paul's exhortation to pray for worldly rulers, we need to realize that at the time that Paul wrote those lines in his letter to Timothy, Christianity was still very young and was just getting underway. In fact, it was only a few decades old. As such, it needed all of the help that it could get, particularly from worldly rulers and others in positions of authority who could facilitate the opening up of their countries to the Gospel.

While it was definitely no easy task to promote this strange new doctrine of the resurrection from the dead, first with the hard-hearted, unbelieving Jews, and then later with the Gentiles as well, we do know that there were a lot of open hearts which were receptive to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This even included people amongst the royalty in Caesar's very own household. We find some evidence of Paul's success in the following verse which is found at the conclusion of his Epistle to the brethren at Philippi:

"All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household."
Philippians 4:22, KJV

It's evident from the Scriptures that the Apostle Paul was a man driven by his vision for world evangelism, which he had received from the Lord. While we too should carry this very same burning desire in our hearts to reach the lost with the message of Salvation, as I briefly mentioned in part three, we must acknowledge the fact that the tide has changed, and the situation has changed dramatically. Clearly, the world is turning much more antichrist by the year, and the windows of witnessing opportunities are closing. Reception has in large part been replaced by spiritual apathy and blatant rejection. In some cases, we are even witnessing outright Devil worship, such as in the United States where music and halftime shows mock God as if it is some kind of a joke.

Those of us who try to remain faithful witnesses in some way have certainly seen these things. Concerning many of this world's selfish leaders, as I mentioned earlier, maintaining their positions of power, and hoarding great wealth, is what matters most to them. You can be sure that accepting Christ is not on their list of priorities. As such, while it would be absolutely wonderful if many of the world's leaders were to adopt our Christian faith, as we discussed in part two of this series, we need to be realists, and simply accept that increasing persecution against Christians, and even societal ostracization seem to be the order of the day. As the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

In a figurative sense, we might say that Christians today are trying to squeeze the last bit of stuffing into the turkey before it finally explodes. To put it another way, you can only eat so much chocolate or ice cream before you finally get sick of it. In this case, the antichrist world at large

has reached a point where many people no longer even want to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ. As a result, the more we try to share our Christian beliefs with others, the more many people seem to be resisting it. Sadly, even in the Christian USA. Allow me to again encourage you to read articles such as the series "Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution".

Please go to part five for the conclusion of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

Should We Pray for Our Leaders? : Part 5

Copyright 1994 - 2024 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 13, 1999

Last Updated : October 22, 2024

Acceptance -> Spiritual Apathy -> Rejection And Rebellion -> Persecution Against God's Children, Don't Fight Take Flight, Is There A Time When We Should Cease Praying For A Person?, People Who Forsake God's Mercy Due To Their Pride, When God Says To Refrain Praying For Someone, Rebellion And Apostasy Of Ancient Israelites, Jeremiah Against The False Prophets, USA's False MAGA Prophets, 40 Years: God's Delayed Judgments, God Is Merciful And Slow To Anger, Divine Judgment Will Fall On America, Fruits Of A True Christian, A Pointed Question For America, Ungodly Politicians And Their Ungodly Policies, Dividing The Wheat From The Tares, Aligning Policy With God's Word, My Overall Opinion, It's Your Choice Who You Pray For, Wicked Kamala Harris, My Closing Remarks, BBB Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part four, while we can hope and pray for the Salvation of those people who are at the helm of worldly governments, from reading the Scriptures, I believe that it is safe to assume that similar to Agrippa and his ancestors, or just like evil Emperor Nero, most of

said leaders will probably reject God's gift when they are given an opportunity to accept the Lord. Let's face it. As I noted earlier, they are of the world, and all most of them care about are the things of the world, namely power, fame and wealth. Not only that, but in examining God's Word, and using that as an example, it seems that the current pattern of stiff rebellion will continue, as the world becomes even more corrupt and evil in its ways. I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul also wrote to Timothy:

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

Please notice that this verse comes immediately after the verse I shared with you at the end of part four regarding persecution. In short, if we follow the Biblical pattern, then the way it always seems to play out is like this:

1. A period when people gladly accept the Gospel.
2. A period of spiritual apathy and frigidity.
3. A period when rejection and rebellion begin.
4. A period of persecution against God's people.

Tell me, my friends. Is that not what we are seeing more and more with each passing year, as people grow tired insofar as hearing the Christian Gospel is concerned? They are becoming just like the stuffed turkey I mentioned to you in part four.

Once people have knowingly rejected God's mercy through the Salvation that He offers them, then this is where I believe that all of the other verses I have shared in this series come into play. Once they have made a clear choice against God, then I believe that we are really no longer under any further obligation to pray for them. While the Apostle Paul advised his readers to hope and pray for the Salvation of kings and such, it cannot be forced on them. It must be by their own free choice. Then, as we've discussed in part two, once they have made a clear choice and rejected the Word of the Lord, we should follow Jesus' own advice as found in the Gospels, as we see by the following group of Bible verses:

"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

Matthew 7:6, KJV

"But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another . . ."

Matthew 10:23, KJV

"And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them . . ."

Mark 6:11, KJV

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

Matthew 12:30, KJV

Please ask yourself this question: Do any of those verses even remotely sound like we should stay and continue to pray for such callous individuals who have knowingly rejected the Gospel? Obviously not. What they do say is "Don't fight, take flight!" In part three I shared the following verse with you:

"The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth."

Psalms 34:16, KJV

If the previous verse clearly informs us that the Lord's face is against evildoers -- which strongly suggests that He does not even hear their prayers -- and that His only desire is to destroy them, then why should we continue to waste our time on them? I can tell you from my personal experiences that the more you pressure an individual after they have already heard the message of Salvation, the more likely they are to harden their heart even more, and reject the message further. Such people become so deceived by their own pride and vanity, that they actually reject God's mercy, as we see by the following verse:

"They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy."

Jonah 2:8, KJV

In other words, God will not have mercy upon those people who reject the truth of the Scriptures, and who live in delusion. So the question is this: Is it possible for a certain person, or even an entire nation of people, to become just so wicked in their ways that the Lord might specifically tell us to NOT

even pray for them? Taking my question a step further, is it also possible that national government leaders can likewise become so extremely evil, that contrary to the Apostle Paul's admonition in 1 Timothy 2:1-3, we should NOT pray for them as well?

Well, sad to say, the answer is actually a resounding "Yes!". If you personally find this answer difficult to believe, then I ask you to consider the fact that the ancient Israelites -- who were God's very own people at that time -- became just so wicked, and so corrupt, and had backslidden from the Lord so far in their rebellion and apostasy, that several times in his book, the Prophet Jeremiah very specifically wrote that the Lord commanded him to NOT even pray for them. Why does the Lord tell Jeremiah this? Because the sins of the people have in fact separated them from God. For those of you who have also realized the similarities between ancient Israel and the modern United States of America, these verses might be quite an eye-opener for you:

"But YOUR INIQUITIES HAVE SEPARATED BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR GOD, and your sins have hid his face from you, that HE WILL NOT HEAR."

Isaiah 59:2, KJV

"Therefore PRAY NOT THOU FOR THIS PEOPLE, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee."

Jeremiah 7:16, KJV

"Therefore PRAY NOT THOU FOR THIS PEOPLE, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble."

Jeremiah 11:14, KJV

"Then said the LORD unto me, PRAY NOT FOR THIS PEOPLE for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence. Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place. Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they

prophecy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophecy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed. And the people to whom they prophecy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them."

Jeremiah 14:11-16, KJV

"We have transgressed and have rebelled: thou hast not pardoned. Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us: thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied. THOU HAST COVERED THYSELF WITH A CLOUD, THAT OUR PRAYER SHOULD NOT PASS THROUGH."

Lamentations 3:42-44, KJV

"Now we know that GOD HEARETH NOT SINNERS: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."

John 9:31, KJV

Notice how the Lord also warns Jeremiah of the coming fate of the many false prophets in Israel, who prophesied of peace, safety and plenty, when He actually had the opposite in store for them. I wonder how many false seers there are in America today who do this very same thing. They wave their red, white and blue flags and sing "God Bless America", and are living under such strong delusion, that they don't even realize that God is about to send them His judgments! The Dominionists in particular all shout "Make America great again!" and "America will be great again as soon as Donald Trump is re-elected!", not realizing that America has already become so evil, that it is possible that she has already passed the point of no return. They sound just like the false prophets of Israel who likewise promised peace and prosperity. Wow! What a parallel!

No doubt some scoffers will immediately say "Ah yes, there he goes again with his talk of coming gloom and doom!" Well, for those of you who are so foolish as to doubt my words, allow me to remind you that from the time that the Prophet Jeremiah began to prophesy to Israel, a total of forty years passed before God's judgments actually fell upon those wicked people by way of King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian invasions.

In similar fashion, when Jesus prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem and Herod's temple in His Olivet Discourse, we know that forty years passed before it was destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Roman General Titus and his legions. In the case of the Genesis Flood which occurred during the days of the Patriarch Noah, between one hundred and one hundred and twenty years passed before the rains began to descend.

The point is, God is extremely merciful. He is slow to anger. He is patient or what the Bible calls longsuffering. He gives His rebellious and foolish children plenty of time to repent of their wickedness and sins. This is why His judgments are so righteous when they finally fall. We have the opportunity to either repent, or else to continue to fill up our cup of iniquity. This applies on both a personal level, as well as on a national level. Please consider the following verses which clearly describe God's true, patient, merciful nature:

"And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not."
Nehemiah 9:17, KJV

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."
Psalms 103:8-18, KJV

"The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy."

Psalms 145:8, KJV

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23, KJV

"And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country?

Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil."

Jonah 4:2, KJV

However, as I mentioned in part two, God will NOT wait on us to repent forever. Sooner or later, His judgements will begin to fall. As such, we need to understand that judgment delayed does NOT equate to judgment postponed. That is precisely why I have personally become convinced that, sooner or later, His righteous judgements will fall on America, because She has simply become so evil. She no longer even tries to hide her sins. She flaunts them openly in God's face.

Returning to our main topic of discussion, as we see by the previous verses from the Book of Jeremiah, not only does the Lord tell us that He does not hear the prayers of the wicked, but He also informs us that there are times when He does not even want His own children to pray for them either. Now, this brings us to a crucial point of this discussion. Consider the warning the Lord offers in the seventh chapter of the Gospel of Matthew:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Matthew 7:15-20, KJV

While Jesus was applying His words to false prophets, it is obvious that we can apply His counsel to other situations as well. Not only should we apply the Lord's words to our own lives, but we should apply them to anyone who claims to be a Christian. This includes our government leaders. That is the gist of my main message to you in this series. Now for those of you who insist that following the Apostle Paul's advice, we should pray for the president and other leaders of the government of the United States of America, allow me to ask you a pointed question.

While some of these politicians claim to be Christians, and while we sometimes see them in made-for-TV photo ops as they attend church services, do these men and women truly display the fruits of a true, God-fearing, Bible-believing Christian in their personal lives, in the political decisions which they make, and in the various positions which they embrace?

I am sure that I do not need to lead any of you by the hand in answering this question. You are all familiar with what kinds of policies and practices the current leadership has supported. You are fully aware of the current status of gay and lesbian rights. You are aware of who openly supports and promotes the murderous act of abortion under the false guise of so-called women's reproductive rights. You are also aware of how transgenderism has confused and corrupted the minds of elementary school-aged children. You're aware of how many countries have been mercilessly bombed, supposedly all for justifiable reasons. And there are many other wicked things they do which we will probably never even know about.

Based upon your knowledge of these issues, can you honestly say that the US government leaders who make these kinds of ungodly decisions are true Christians? Can you honestly say that they're worthy of the prayers of other Christians? Can you honestly say that you are convinced in your heart that it is God's Will for you to pray for these kinds of leaders?

Now, please understand that I am not trying to paint with a broad brush here. I realize that not all politicians have supported these ungodly policies. There are certain people in government who have in fact voiced strong opposition to some of these policies, precisely because they do strive to adhere to Christian principles in their lives. So it is very important to divide the wheat from the tares. However, we're

talking about the bad apples here, of which, sadly, there are indeed many.

As I pointed out in part two of this series, the results of our prayers depend upon three factors. If one of them is not aligned with the other two, then our prayers will be totally ineffective. In plain talk, they are useless. So tell me, do you believe that the politicians who create these devilish policies, and who make these decisions which contradict the Word of God, are truly trying to align their wills with the Will of the Father? Does the fruit of their lives prove it?

Taking all of these different points into consideration, as members of God righteous Kingdom, and His global spiritual nation of born-again Believers, I am of the opinion that in matters of prayer, our primary obligation is to pray for our own Kingdom and nation, to pray for our spiritual elders and our brethren in the faith, and to pray for the Lord's lost sheep who still remain in the world, but who are destined to become His children. This seems to be the overall statement of all of the verses I have found in the New Testament.

Only that one set of verses written by the Apostle Paul and addressed to Timothy, makes mention of praying for worldly leaders. Yet even those verses seem to be mainly concerned with the general Salvation of all men. As we have discussed, once they reject that Salvation, once they turn their backs on God in favor of worldly power and wealth, they have made their clear choice to remain the children of darkness, and the children of the world. As we saw clearly in the verse from John chapter seventeen, the Lord did NOT pray for the world. He only prayed for His own followers.

Throughout this series, I have done my best to show you what the Holy Scriptures plainly teach us concerning the subject of praying for one's government leaders. I have shown you directly what is stated in the Old Testament as written by the Prophets. I have shown you what Jesus personally taught. And lastly, I've shown you what the Apostle Paul wrote too.

So what will you do? I certainly cannot decide for you, and I don't wish to decide for you. As in all of my articles, I have done my best to provide you with the verses I've found which are pertinent to this subject. How you pray, where you pray, how long you pray, and for whom you pray, is of course

entirely up to you. I just hope that you are not praying for someone whom the Lord has already turned His back on, and for whom He does not even want us praying. The Scriptural evidence is there. You decide for yourself, as you feel led by God's Spirit. As the Apostle Paul also wrote:

" . . . Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."
Romans 14:5, KJV

As I mentioned earlier, there are a lot of bad apples within the U.S. government. There is one bad apple in particular who I want to discuss before bringing this series to an end. At this current time, we are only two weeks away from the 2024 U.S. presidential election. In fact, in some states, early voting has already begun. As you will know, the candidates are Donald Trump on the Republican ticket, and Kamala Harris on the Democratic ticket. It is Harris who I wish to discuss.

In parts three and four of this series, we discussed "brute beasts , made to be taken and destroyed", "reprobate silver" which is rejected by the Lord, and "vessels of wrath fitted to destruction". Some people are born reprobates, and remain reprobates their entire lives. In other words, they reject the Lord, and the Lord rejects them.

While my Democratic-leaning readers will obviously not like to hear this, quite frankly, at this point in time, I would say that given Harris' various positions and the evil things which she supports and promotes -- such as abortion rights and LGBTQ rights -- she qualifies as both a wicked person and a reprobate. I simply do not believe or accept that any truly God-fearing, Bible-believing Christian would support such things. Furthermore, I don't believe that Harris has any intention of repenting of her wickedness. She is sixty years old and very set in her ways.

Let's be clear about this. Harris has plainly stated that if she should win the election, she will sign a constitutional amendment re-establishing abortion as the law of the land, the minute that such a bill hits her desk. She publicly said this during the April 10, 2024 presidential debate.

How much more proof do we need than that to see how wicked this woman is? Do you honestly believe that she is a genuine Christian? We all know -- or at least should know -- that all

politicians are chameleons who will change the color of their skin depending on which way the political wind blows, for the sake of political advantage. They'll pretend to be Christians when they're really no such thing in their hearts or in their daily lives. Yet sadly, gullible Christians continue to be deceived by them year after year.

As I point out in some of my abortion-related articles such as "Abortion: The Slaughter of the Innocent" and "The Fruit of the Womb", the Bible plainly state that God HATES people who shed innocent blood, and that children are a blessing from the Lord, as we can determine by the following verses:

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Proverbs 6:16-19, KJV

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalms 127:3, KJV

What can be more innocent than the estimated 63,000,000+ unborn babies who have been murdered in cold blood in the USA since Roe v. Wade became the law of the land in 1973? Sadly, that horrendous number only represents the legal, known abortions. Who knows how many others there have been.

So again, in my opinion, Harris is a very wicked person. She is a hard-hearted reprobate who simply knows how to put on a good act for the sake of political advantage. Her fruits do NOT reveal her to be a genuine Christian who truly believes in or respects the Bible, or the sanctity of human life.

Furthermore, it is of concern to me that should Harris win the upcoming election, she could turn out to be a vessel of wrath which the Lord uses to chastise this nation, due to its backslidden condition and stiff rebellion against the Lord. I believe that God uses such liberal leaders to allow a nation to fill up its cup of iniquity before His judgments fall.

So just as I cannot tell you who to pray for, neither can I

tell you who to vote for, assuming that you vote at all. It is entirely up to you and your personal faith, and how you feel led by the Lord. However, personally, I really have no inclination to pray for Harris. Regarding voting, here on Guam we can't vote in federal elections. Now does this mean that I believe that God can't change Harris' heart? No, of course not. God can do whatever He likes, whenever He likes, to whomever He likes. After all, the Apostle Paul engaged in persecuting and killing Christians, yet the Lord totally turned his heart and life around, exactly as we saw earlier in Proverbs 21:1.

However, at the same time, as I explain in "Free Will and Personal Choice" and "Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?", God made each of us a free moral agent. He did NOT make us to be mindless robots. Thus, we have the free will to choose what we want or don't want. But whatever we choose, we must be willing to accept the consequences of our choices. As we discussed earlier, Harris has made her choice regarding the abortion issue. It is a part of her campaign platform.

We are talking about someone who wants to reinstate the right to murder unborn babies on a constitutional level. Legally undoing such an amendment would be quite difficult. When was the last time an amendment was removed from the Constitution? Out of curiosity, I asked ChatGPT about this. Consider this:

----- Begin Quote -----

"No amendment has ever been removed from the U.S. Constitution. However, one amendment, the 18th Amendment (which established the prohibition of alcohol in 1920), was effectively "reversed" by a later amendment, the 21st Amendment, which repealed it in 1933. This is the only instance of one constitutional amendment directly overturning another. While amendments can be repealed or overridden by subsequent amendments, none have been "removed" from the Constitution itself."

----- End Quote -----

So that is why ever since Roe v. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court on June 24, 2022 in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, liberals have worked feverishly to circumvent that ruling by going through Congress instead.

They understand how extremely difficult it would be to repeal a constitutional amendment passed by Congress and signed by the president.

Of course, Kamala Harris is just the person to help them to accomplish this devilish deed. She is a person who is in fact heavily counting on her position regarding abortion rights to help her to win the election. This is a person whose heart is not going to change. She is a wicked reprobate who does not care what God thinks. That is why I cannot in good conscience pray for her. Furthermore, I don't believe God even wants me to do so, as per the previous verses I shared with you. Kamala Harris will do whatever God has ordained for her to do, even if it means taking the United States of America further down the dark path of sin and rebellion against the Lord. God help us all if she should win the 2024 presidential election!

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you have found it informative, enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Bill's Bible Basics Articles:

Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?

Are You Just a Baby Huey?

Beholding the Evil and the Good

Beware of Dominionism!

Beware of the Pauline Extremists!

Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution

Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?

Don't Ever Underestimate Our Spiritual Enemy

Free Will and Personal Choice

Have You Read the New Scriptures Yet?
He Who Fights and Runs Away: Choose Your Battles Wisely
Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?
Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement
Modern False Prophets and Worldly Ecumenism
Not Everyone Is a Child of God
One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews
Rise of the False Church
The Children of God and Politics
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?
The Holocaust: Did God Make a Mistake?
The Public School System and School Prayer
To Pray or Not to Pray? That is the Question
To Vote, or Not to Vote
Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?

Bill's Bible Basics KJV Bible Verse Lists:

Desperate Prayer KJV Bible Verse List
God Raises Up Leaders KJV Bible Verse List
God Turns Away From Prayer KJV Bible Verse List
Morning Prayer KJV Bible Verse List
Obey the Powers That Be KJV Bible Verse List
Pray for Whom? KJV Bible Verse List
Prayer KJV Bible Verse List
Prayers of Jesus KJV Bible Verse List
Watch and Pray KJV Bible Verse List

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com
<https://www.billkochman.com>