



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Pray For All Government Leaders

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The First Epistle of Paul to Timothy (AD 62-64), a letter that Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, wrote to Timothy, his beloved son in the faith. Timothy was a Jew and a Gentile; his father was a Greek (Acts 16:1) and His mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, were Jews who became believers in Jesus Christ (2 Ti 1:5). Timothy was a believer in Jesus Christ and well verse in Paul's theology and doctrine. Paul likely wrote this epistle from Macedonia after his release from his first Roman imprisonment and after he revisited several of the cities where he had started ministries and after placing Timothy in the Ephesus church. Paul placed Timothy in Ephesus to deal with problems that had developed in that local church body, including false teachings, lack of order in worship and criteria for leaders in the church. Paul commands Timothy to, *"...fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regards to their faith."* (1:18b-19). After a faith filled greeting, a description of the challenges in the local church and providing encouragement to Timothy, Paul first urges Timothy and the church to pray. (1 Ti 1-2: NASB)

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." (1-2)

Pray for Government Leaders. Paul not only directs Timothy and the church to pray for all men, but also for kings or government leaders and all who are in authority. Paul understood that the Holy Spirit worked in the church, the believers, through the Word of God and prayer. (Eph 3:20-21 & 1 Thes 2:13) It appears that one of the issues that had plagued the church at Ephesus was that their prayer nature was wrong and they likely had stopped praying for the salvation of all men including those national rulers and all who were in authority. Given the persecution from the government and the mainstream religious community, including the false teaching internal to the church, many in the church in Ephesus had turned internal and no longer were taking the good news of gospel outside of the church and to the world. What are some of the expected results of these prayers?

"A Tranquil and Quiet Life". Paul, shares that an outcome to Timothy regarding prayer for government leaders and those in authority is a tranquil and quiet life. A tranquil (Gk *eremos* ; composed, quiet, placid) life is an internal calm free of disturbances. A quiet (Gk *hesychios*: free from activity, disturbance, excitement or undisturbed from without) life is an external quiet free of disturbances. So while there is no authority except from God and while God establishes or ordains government and directs believers to be subject to government authorities (Rm 13:1-7), He also calls believers to pray for those authorities and one of the outcomes is so that the believer may lead a internal and external quiet life. How is the believer to live that quiet life?

"In All Godliness and Dignity". Paul advises Timothy and those believers in the church at Ephesus that they are being called back, away from false teachers, to a quiet life that involves holy living, devotion and piety to God and one that provides dignity to the believer by serving, obeying, and honoring God.

"First of All". Paul in these several verses, shares that the issue of first importance to Timothy is **prayer** for **all** men including government leaders and those in authority **for their salvation.** (4)

For Your Consideration:

- Do you pray for all men and their salvation?
- If or when you pray for government leaders and those in authority, do you pray "first of all" for their salvation or something else?
- If all Christians, the body of Christ, prayed for the government leaders and their salvation, what might we expect?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44