



CAPITOL COMMISSION

SERVING ELECTED OFFICIALS-GOD'S WAY

(PART 1)

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Given the state of affairs of our governmental leaders, I would venture to say that there is not one person under the sound of my voice who would not desire to have a more godly men and women involved in governmental affairs. I desire more godly government and I'm sure you desire this also. But what are you and I doing to correct this deficiency?

William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, stated that good laws do well but good men do better. Good men can correct bad governments. John Newton admonished a pastor friend of his that for a Christian pastor to devoted his energies in political reforms is tantamount to painting the cabin of the ship while it is sinking and to decorate the parlor while the house is on fire.

Daniel 1:4 "youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans."

Daniel 1:8 " But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself."

Daniel 6:4 "Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him."

God has always had a desired for His Chosen People to be a witness and a light to the nations.

Isaiah 49:6 "He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I

will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth. '"

Isaiah 60:3 "Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising."

Luke 2:32 "A Light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel. "

Acts 13:47 "For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, That You may bring salvation to the end of the earth. ' "

Acts 26:23 "that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

GOD'S 3 DIRECTIVES FOR HIS POLITICAL LEADERS

1. **GOD'S DECREE: HE PROVIDENTIALLY INSTALLS OUR LEADERS**

Daniel 2:21 "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding."

Romans 13:1 " Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."

Proverbs 8:15 "By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice."

Daniel 4:17 "This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind,

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And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men."

John 19:11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING MAN CAN DO WILL ULTIMATELY THWART THE SOVEREIGN DECREE OF GOD. HE ALONE PROVIDENTIALLY INSTALLS LEADERS IN THE REALM OF GOVERNMENT! YES, PAGAN ELECTED OFFICIALS AND YES, EVEN SINFUL LEADERS!

But is that God's desire? No! God's desire is seen in his provision given to our leaders. So what is His provisions?

2. GOD'S DESIRE: HIS PROVISION FOR OUR LEADERS

1 Timothy 2:4 "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

God desires our leaders to be saved! To be saved means to be **delivered**. Salvation is the deliverance **from sin** and **its consequences**. **Guilt** (Rom. 5:1; Heb. 10:22, from the **law** and **its curse** (Gal. 3:13; Col. 2:14) from **death** (1 Pet. 1:3-5; 1 Cor. 15:51-56), from **judgment** (Rom. 5:9; Heb. 9:28, also from **fear** (Heb. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:7, 9f.) and **bondage** (Tit. 2:11-3:6; Gal 5:1f).¹

Jesus Christ paid the price for our sins, they are graciously removed; justice is fully satisfied; and God's kindness, love, mercy, regeneration, renewing, and grace are enabled to act.

Grace gives us what we do not deserve. We do not deserve to be forgiven, to have our sins removed, to have Christ's own righteousness imputed to us, to be given heavenly citizenship, to be justified, sanctified, and one day glorified in the very presence of our gracious Savior and Lord.

God's desire is not only to be saved but also to come to the knowledge of the truth. You as an elected official can know truth-- God's absolute truth.

God has provided truth. Psalm 19 provides for us general revelatory truth in creation & special revelatory truth through His divine Word.

Psalm 138:2 "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

John 17:17 Sanctify them in truth, "thy word is truth"

3. GOD'S DESIGN: HIS DESIGNED THAT WE PRAY & SUBMIT TO OUR LEADERS

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

1 Timothy 2:1-4 " 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. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

- **Entreaties** is from *deesis*, the root meaning of which is "to lack, to be deprived," or "to be without something." **This kind of prayer arises from the sense of need. Knowing what is lacking, we plead with God to supply it.** As we look out on the masses of lost humanity, the enormity of the need should drive us to our knees in evangelistic prayer.²
- **Prayers** is from *proseuchē* is a general word for prayer. Unlike **entreaties**, in Scripture it is used only in reference to God. It thus carries with it a unique element of worship and reverence. **Prayer for the lost is ultimately directed at God as an act of worship, because the salvation of sinners causes them to give glory to Him.** In

2 Corinthians 4:15, Paul reveals that all his efforts at reaching the ungodly were to spread saving grace to more and more people so they could give thanks to God, which would abound to His glory.³

- **Petitions** is from *enteuxis* appears only here and in 4:5 in the New Testament. **It comes from a root word meaning “to fall in with someone,” or get involved with them.** The verb from which *enteuxis* derives is used to speak of both Christ's and the Spirit's intercession for us (Rom. 8:26; Heb. 7:25). They identify with our needs, and become involved in our struggles. *Enteuxis*, then, is a word not only of advocacy, but also of **empathy, sympathy, compassion, and involvement.** Evangelistic prayer is not cold, detached, or impersonal, like a public defender assigned to represent a defendant. Understanding the depths of their misery and pain, and their coming doom, we cry to God for the salvation of sinners.⁴
- **Thanksgivings** is from *eucharistia*. Thanksgivings call for us to pray with a spirit of gratitude to God that the gospel offer has been extended, that we have the privilege of reaching the lost with that gospel, and that some respond with faith and repentance. Thanksgiving is the only element of prayer that will continue forever.⁵

These four nuances must enrich our Evangelistic Prayers if we are to pray effectively for our Elected Leaders. If they are missing, we need to examine our hearts.

- ✦ **DO WE FULLY REALIZE THE DESPERATE CONDITION THE LOST ARE IN?**
- ✦ **DO WE REALLY WANT TO SEE GOD GLORIFIED BY THE SALVATION OF SOULS?**
- ✦ **DO WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THE COMPELLING REALITY OF THEIR LOSTNESS, BOTH FOR TIME AND ETERNITY?**
- ✦ **ARE WE THANKFUL THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IS EXTENDED TO ALL AND FOR OUR PRIVILEGE OF SHARING IT?**

If these components are lacking in your hearts we will be indifferent. If we are indifferent, it is because we are disobedient to the commands of Scriptures.

Even in the midst of the most debauched governments we as Christians are to Evangelistically Pray for our leaders over us. Jeremiah under Nebuchadnezzar; Christ under Caesar; Peter & Paul under Nero

Jeremiah 29:6-7 "Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease. 'Seek the welfare (PEACE) of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare (PEACE) you will have welfare (PEACE)."

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

In John Newton's letter to a pastor, Newton concluded:

HOW CRUCIAL THEN, IS IT FOR ME—TO BE FOUND WATCHING, WITH MY LAMP BURNING, DILIGENTLY ENGAGED IN MY PROPER CALLING! FOR THE LORD HAS NOT CALLED ME TO SET GOVERNMENTS RIGHT—BUT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, TO PROCLAIM THE GLORY OF HIS NAME, AND TO ENDEAVOR TO WIN SOULS! "LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR OWN DEAD—BUT YOU GO AND PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD!" LUKE 9:60. HAPPY IS THAT SERVANT, WHOM HIS MASTER FINDS SO DOING, WHEN HE RETURNS!⁶

¹ Wood, D. R. W.: *New Bible Dictionary*. InterVarsity Press, 1996, c1982, c1962, S. 1050

² MacArthur, John: *1 Timothy*. Chicago : Moody Press, 1995, S. 60.

³ Ibid., 61

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <http://www.gracegems.org/Newton/135.htm>.