

Praying for Politicians and Those in Authority

Eugene Kamps

Are politicians and those in authority over us, worthy of our prayers? Look at the way they run the country, wasting the tax money we send in, with their stand on abortion, their calling homosexuality just a life style; the list goes on. We should not reason because of their wrongful doings, therefore, that we do not have to pray for them. We, too, selfishly waste on ourselves much of that which is given to us on things of this world, instead of using it for the kingdom of God. So we must give thanks to God through prayer for all He has given us—even the politicians God has placed over us.

Praying for our politicians is a command given to us as people of God. The Belgic Confession, Article 36, teaches that we are to subject ourselves to the authorities, pay tribute, show honor and respect, and obey them in all things which are not contrary to the Word of God. We must humbly entreat for them in our prayers that God may rule and guide them in all their ways, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. This is based on the Word of God which is found in I Timothy 2:1-4, “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.”

Why are we instructed to pray for the politicians? Because God has placed them in rule and authority over us. As we read in Romans 13:1, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” We pray for them because God governs (controls) all things even the hearts of kings (politicians). Proverbs 21:1, “The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it withersoever He will.” So, every action and decision that our politicians make, is all in the control of God's hand. He uses it to accomplish His eternal good pleasure and to the glory of His Name. Even if what the politicians put in order, causes us harm or hurt, we must not take the attitude of rebellion or of revolting. Instead we should lead a quiet life in all godliness and honesty, so that the name of the church will be honorable among those who are outside of the church. We are taught to bless those that curse us, and pray for those that spitefully use us. In this we stand in the assurance that our Heavenly Father will turn all evil from us or turn it to our profit.

We give thanks through prayer for the salvation that God has given unto us through our Lord Jesus Christ. We also must see that the Lord saves His people from all classes of men.

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