

Please welcome...

Preaching for us today is **Jacob Machengete** from the Venice congregation. Be sure to welcome him and thank him.

My Influence

“Children are more influenced by sermons we act than by sermons we preach” - David MacKay -

“Be around the people you want to be like, because you will be like the people you are around”. - Sean Reichle -

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.” - Albert Schweitzer -

November Birthdays

6 Ashley Tanner 10 Daniel Brown

(Note: if anyone is “missed” here, let Jim know)

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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(Vacant)

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Praying for Those in Power

By Wade Webster

Paul instructed Timothy, and the saints with whom he was working, to pray *“for kings, and for all that are in authority”* that they might *“lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”* (1 Timothy 2:1-8). The same holds true today. Realizing the great power that government wields over our lives, we need to commit to praying daily for our national, state, and local leaders. In Paul’s inspired words, we find four reasons to pray for those in power.

IT IS PRESCRIBED. We read, *“I exhort therefore . . .”* (1 Timothy 2:1). Exhort means “to call for.” Paul was calling Timothy to pray for leaders. Government was ordained of God to be a minister for good (Romans 13:1-7). However, government is dependent upon the prayers of Christians (Ezra 6:10; Ezra 7:23).

IT IS PROFITABLE. Paul exhorted Timothy to pray for those in power so that *“we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”* (1 Timothy 2:2). Quiet means “tranquil;” peaceable means “undisturbed” (cf. Jeremiah 29:7). Those in authority have a great effect upon God’s children. Some bless while others are a curse. Cyrus and Artaxerxes blessed. Other leaders like Pharaoh (Exodus 1), Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3), Darius (Daniel 6), Herod (Matthew 2), the Jewish authorities (Acts 4:18; Acts 5:40), and Nero (2 Timothy 4:6-8) made the lives of God’s children extremely difficult. We need to pray for those in power, that we might have peace and prosperity.

IT IS PLEASING. We read, *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved”* (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Acceptable means “agreeable.” Praying for those

in authority is consistent with God's desire for all men to come to a knowledge of the truth (2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16). Some governments enact policies that aid the spread of the gospel, while others enact policies that hinder its spread.

IT IS POWERFUL. Paul wrote, *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"* (1 Timothy 2:5). The prayers of saints are powerful because they are on speaking terms with the only mediator (Matthew 19:26; 1 John 5:14-15; Philippians 4:13). No one else in the nation has this privilege. Do you recall the situation in Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and couldn't remember it? Only Daniel could give the interpretation because they were the only ones who knew the God who reveals secrets (Daniel 2:24-30). Today, Christians are the ones who have the connection to the God who rules the universe. The prayers of the righteous avail much (James 5:16-18).

Each of us needs to commit to praying daily for those in power. Religious freedom, marriage, and the lives of millions of unborn babies all hang in the balance.

What is a Christian's Responsibility to Government?

By Roger Campbell

A Christian is to...

1. Obey civil authorities. *"Obey magistrates"* (Titus 3:1). *"Let every soul be subject to the higher powers"* (Romans 13:1). *"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man"* (1 Peter 2:13).

2. Obey the civil government *"for the Lord's sake"* (1 Peter 2:13). Because *"the powers that be are ordained of God"* (Romans 13:1), resisting such authorities is equal to resisting God's ordained arrangement (Romans 13:2). *"For so is the will of God"* (1 Peter 2:15).

3. Obey every aspect of civil law. *"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake"* (1 Peter 2:13). "Every ordinance" would include what the civil authorities might decree about building codes, littering highways, tax obligations, the size of passport photos, how far a church building must sit away from a street, and you name it. We may be tempted to label some laws as unreasonable or ridiculous, but the law is the law.

If I have the right to disregard a law that I count as inconvenient or excessively costly, then why would another person not have the right to disregard a different law? What is it that ensues when people decide to use their own gut feelings to determine with which government ordinances they will comply, and which they will disregard? The word is "chaos" or "lawlessness."

4. Obey civil authorities at all levels. Peter's Spirit-guided instruction to submit to civil ordinances was, *"whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evil doers"* (1 Peter 2:13-14). This shows all branches and levels of civil government fall under the category of *"the powers that be"* to whom we are to submit ourselves; in our country that would include national, state, district, county, and city laws.

5. Obey civil authorities, unless they conflict with God's law. Because God's people are to act *"as obedient children"* at all times (1 Peter 1:14, if man's laws are at odds with the teaching of the Bible, God's children are to obey the Bible. *"We ought to obey God rather than men"* (Acts 5:29).

Remember, though, we are not at liberty to disobey a government law simply because we do not like it. A saint's decision not to submit to a civil law must be based on a *"thus saith the Lord"* and not on his own personal likes or preferences.