

# ***Praying that Changes us and Changes the Nations***

## ***1 Timothy 2: 1-4***

*1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. NIV*

- 1. Different kinds of prayer for ALL people results in...*
- 2. Believers living a peaceful & quiet life in godliness and holiness*
- 3. This pleases God*
- 4. Whose purpose is for ALL people to be saved and to know the truth.*

The reason for us habitually praying for ALL people and ALL who are in authority is:

- a) The effect that our prayers for others has upon ourselves in relation to godliness and holiness.
- b) The peaceful and quiet life is not talking about keeping to ourselves and having no influence on our neighbours and society around us
- c) It is God's desire that our petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving coupled with the testimony of our lives, would create opportunities to present Christ and display the spirit of Christ to the lost.

- In the Old Testament, God guides Jeremiah to command his people who are in exile in Babylon, to make sure they pray for their captors and the city in which they live.

### ***Jeremiah 29:7***

*And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.” NLT*

- God’s word and his commands are relevant and binding upon all believers in all nations.

Many believers today are living in nations who have very repressive regimes and great hostility towards the gospel and followers of Jesus. But God’s word does not make allowances according to our circumstances.

- Paul’s instructions were to petition, pray, intercede and give thanks for ALL people and for ALL of those in positions of authority in our societies – both in the secular and Christian community.

Paul said these words ‘pray for me’ – but he was very specific about what to pray.

### ***Ephesians 6:18-20***

*18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

## **Romans 15:30**

*...<sup>30</sup> Now I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. <sup>31</sup>Pray that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there,*

## **Colossians 4:4**

*...<sup>3</sup> as you pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.*

Today being a missions Sunday, we can apply these scriptures not only to our own nation, but to all nations, and those in authority in those nations.

The Bible tells us that God is the one who set up and deposes people.

*Daniel 2:21 He changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and establishes them.*

*He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.*

*<sup>22</sup> He reveals the deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness...*

If we understand these things about God: His sovereignty over times and seasons, over positions and people of authority, his ownership of wisdom and his right to reveal or not to reveal things – that He

knows what lies in darkness...we can pray for our nation and the nations with greater discernment.

Our prayers being in greater alignment with God so that we too will also want all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

Amen.