

The University Heights Messenger

January 9, 2010

Thoughts On Our Spiritual Obligations To Our Government

Just a few days ago I was watching John Boehner, the new Speaker of the House, discussing the Republican agenda going forward now that they control the House. The Republicans want to repeal the President's new health care policies, find a way to increase job growth throughout the country, figure out a way to cut government spending across the board, and shrink our national deficit a little at a time. Par for the course, really.

Because these things are cyclical there will come a time when the Republicans lose the House and the Democrats reclaim it. There will come a time when the Democrats lose the Presidency and the Senate and the Republicans reclaim those. When those times come the new President, new Speaker of the House, and new Senate Majority Leader will stand before the nation to tell us what their predecessors in the ousted party had done wrong and how they intend to fix it. The same process repeats itself decade after decade.

It seems as though Christians are as discouraged with the politicians as they have ever been in my life. Perhaps this is an opportune time to be reminded that Scripture shows you and I that we have spiritual obligations to our government.

Subjection to our government

Romans 13:1 says, **“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”** Living lawful lives under subjection to our government is a *spiritual* obligation because God says that it's what He expects of us. This would include obeying the laws, paying our

taxes, and all other requirements of a lawful citizen. If our government demands something of us that conflicts with God's law we must obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29) and accept whatever punishment comes our way. However, if nothing ungodly is being required of us we are required *by God* to live within the confines of the law of the government to whom we are subject. See also **Titus 3:1** and **1 Peter 2:13-15**.

Prayer for our government

Take a moment to read **1 Timothy 2:1-4**. Government officials bear a solemn responsibility to lead, protect, and serve the people they preside over. They deserve our prayers because of that responsibility.

How often do we *really* consider the souls of those leading our nation? How often do we *really* pray that they come to Christ with obedient hearts and obey the gospel call?

Take a moment to look at 1 Timothy 2:1-4 again. In verse 1 Paul urges prayers, supplications, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people. In verse 2 he specifically mentions kings and those who hold high positions. In verse 4 he reminds us that God is pleased with these prayers because He desires that all people be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. The last specific group of people that he mentioned before telling us that God wants everyone to be saved was kings and those in high positions. Thus, God wants even government officials to know Him and submit their wills to His. This leads to the final point I wish to set before you in this article.

Present Christ to our government officials however we can

Before continuing on take a moment to read a few verses. **Matthew 28:18-20; Acts**

24:22-25; 26:24-29; 11:19-21; 8:4-5. We have command and example of taking the gospel of Christ to *all* people. That includes those of high position and authority.

It is sad to see our leaders engage themselves in ungodly conduct and planning. When we see ungodliness among our neighbors we tend to understand that much of it is due to the fact that they do not know the truth. If we love their souls enough we'll walk over to their house or speak across the fence to see if they'd be willing to discuss Christ with us. Our politicians need not be viewed any differently. They're not going to know God's will simply because they are highly educated and holding positions of great authority.

Of course, I understand that walking over to the Governor's Mansion with Bible in hand is quite different than walking over to Joe's house next door. Yet our local leaders tell us that they desire to hear from their constituents and have made their e-mail and mailing addresses available for that very purpose. Why not write them letters from time to time containing the message of Christ? When they are set to vote on issues that God has weighed in on in Scripture, why not let them know where they can find what God has said? Why not send them an e-mail or a letter containing an invitation to our worship services as well as the Bible study material available on our web site? Why not tell them about the live streaming program every Tuesday evening? Their souls are every bit as important as yours and mine. We tend to complain about them and their decisions often. Do we just as often consider our spiritual obligations to them? Please think about these things.

AL

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Jeff Howerton is at home receiving treatments. He remains very weak at this time. *Jeff's new address is: 3374 Commodore Dr. Apt 417 Lexington, KY 40502. Also posted in back.*

Waylon Marples (family of Gina Seabolt) remains in grave condition due to H1N1. He is to begin an experimental drug very soon.

Glyon Hill, a friend of Pat Seabolt, has been diagnosed with colon cancer. He had surgery Friday and we should receive an update today.

Vina Krassow (friend of the Morelan's) is suffering kidney difficulties.

Our members: **Jim Edwards, Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin.**

Others: **Tom Curtis, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Sara Phillips, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Kay Montgomery, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Gail Stein, Shannon Gilbert, Chuck McDavitt**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Streaming Bible study every Tuesday at 7.

The college class begins on the 12th. Please see Matt if you'd like further details.

The Men's meeting is today at 3:30.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sun: Dan 1, Ps 129, Heb 7-8

Mon: Dan 2-3, Ps 130, Heb 9

Tue: Dan 4-5, Ps 131, Heb 10

Wed: Dan 6-7, Ps 132, Heb 11

Thu: Dan 8-9, Ps 133, Heb 12-13

Fri: Dan 10-12, Ps 134, Jas 1-2

Sat: Hos 1, Ps 135, Jas 3-5

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. Philippians: A Message of Joy
To the conflict!
(Philippians 1:27-30)

Sunday PM. Identifying The Lukewarm--1
(Revelation 3:14-16)