

I. Introduction

A. We have been given very clear instructions as followers of Jesus:

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

1. God’s heart is for all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

B. Why get involved in government? Why not just preach and pray? Because government determines whether we have freedom to propagate the gospel or not.

1. Look at a nighttime satellite image of the Korean peninsula: the north is dark, and the south is lit up. What is the difference? An oppressive regime to the north (where the gospel is resisted), and a free society to the south (where the gospel is freely preached). All because of the difference in their political systems.

2. Jesus calls us to be salt and light; that includes in the political sphere (Mt. 5:13-16).

C. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *“Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”* (Mt. 6:10, NIV). If God’s will is to be done, it means our wills must become subject to His will.

1. It also means, “not evil people’s will”, or “not Satan’s will.”

2. This prayer is more than a submission of our will, but a Kingdom proclamation against everything that stands against His will. Pray persistently and aggressively, for things that are against His will and Kingdom to be replaced.

3. As followers of Jesus, we have changed our Kingdom allegiance. We have come out of darkness and into the light; therefore, we oppose all the practices of darkness, first in our own lives, then in the society around us.

*“<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>It is shameful to even mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup>This is why it is said: ‘Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’ <sup>15</sup>Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”* (Eph. 5:8-16, NIV)

4. God is in control, and He is sovereign, but we also have a part in producing His will.  
God's Sovereignty does not diminish our responsibility.

D. Political and cultural engagement is not an option for Christians, it is a command.

## II. How to Pray for Those in Government

### A. Pray for God to raise up leaders of integrity, character, humility, and wisdom.

1. We need these leaders in every level of government, from federal down to municipal and school boards.
2. We need armies of prayer warriors and volunteers to surround and support them.

### B. Pray regularly for your government leaders.

1. Pray for them to have humility, wisdom, eyes to see God's perspective.
2. Pray that they would remain in His Word – it is a light to their path (Ps. 119:105).

*"<sup>18</sup>When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. <sup>19</sup>It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and those decrees." (Deut. 17:18-19, NIV)*

3. Use Psalm 72 as a template to pray for government leaders.

### C. Pray they would have opportunity to build strong relationships for encouragement, accountability, and prayer.

1. The weekly prayer breakfast on Parliament Hill is a place MP's can pray with and for one another. It is incredibly important for Christians to not stand alone, but with brothers & sisters on Parliament Hill.

### D. Pray for stamina, boldness, and courage.

1. The work can be physically gruelling – pray for health, strength, that they would not shrink back in fear when they need to stand, that they would seek the praise of God over the praise of men, that they would have spines of steel, that they would be strong in the face of ridicule and oppression (Lk. 6:22).

2. There are some key issues that are requiring strength and boldness facing our government right now: freedoms of belief, expression, life from conception to natural death; family, gender, and marriage. Pray that they would follow biblical standards, which are all good for human flourishing.
  3. We live in a time when good is called evil, and evil is called good. The foundations our nation has been built on are being undermined (Ps. 11:3).
  4. Pray for our leaders with thanksgiving, that they would stand for godliness and honesty (1 Tim. 2:1-4).
- E. Pray that they would have the lifestyle of one following Christ.

*“<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” (2 Cor. 5:17-20, NIV)*

1. Pray that they would be wholesome in speech and action.
  2. Pray that they would be fair employers, treating their staffers well.
  3. Pray that they would be loyal to Christ and loyal to their political team (as long as that team isn’t leading them away).
- F. Pray for the marriages of Members of Parliament.
1. MP’s travel from across the country to work on Parliament Hill, with families remaining at home; the isolation from loved ones and a spiritual support system can take its toll.
- G. Pray for the families of Members of Parliament.
1. The entire family make huge sacrifices; elected official miss many important milestones in their kids’ lives.
  2. Pray for those with younger children; the political life can cause them great stress.
  3. Pray they would have opportunity to make up for missed events, and for their children’s hearts to be protected from resentment.

III. Conclusion

- A. Politics is not the hope for the world or for Canada. God works through *His people*.

*“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.”* (Zech. 4:6b, NIV)

- B. God’s sovereignty does not diminish our responsibility.

1. This is my Father’s world  
And let me ne’er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong  
God is the Ruler yet  
-“This is My Father’s World”