



# Beyond the Ballot

*PRAYING FOR LEADERS*

# Campaigning!

- Slander your opponent

**Trump:** *You [Ted Cruz] are the single biggest liar!*

- Eagerly skew your own accomplishments

**Duckworth:** *On 9/11 I actually was in command of the Black Hawk Helicopter Company... No one knows fear better than me.*

- Reshape the narrative

**Rauner:** *I've got to tell you, holding the center has been incredibly hard... held it as firm as I can.*



# Campaigning!

- Avoid detailing your plans

**Pritzker:** *Just know this. Every state around us has a progressive tax system.*

- Kiss Babies

There's no end to the mudslinging and lies.

- Some of us are indifferent to it. We don't care anymore.
- Others of us enjoy playing in the mud.

# Regaining Focus

“Politics does not have ultimate weight for us. It is one more stage for acting out the truth that Christ, and not politics, is supreme”

— John Piper.

God tells us that “first of all” we engage the world...

- Not by voting, nor political rallies, nor lobbying.
- **By praying for the salvation of the lost.**

# From Paul to Timothy...

- 1 Timothy is about pastoral ministry...
  - Instruction
  - Encouragement
  - Dealing with false teachers
  - Church structure (elders and deacons)

*“First of all” I have to say to you, Timothy, I beg you to pray for the salvation of “all people,” namely our political leaders!*

# Paul's Prayer

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

— 1 Timothy 2:1-4

First of all, then, I urge that...

supplications

prayers

intercessions

thankgivings

be made

for all people

for kings

(and all in high positions)

**WHY?**

that we may lead a life

(peaceful, quiet, godly, dignified)

**This** is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,  
who desires **all people to be saved**

**WHAT?**



# Paul's Prayer

## Historical Context

- This command was written close to the time that Nero blamed Christians for burning Rome.
- Churches were destroyed, families split, believers killed.

*How do we lead "peace and quiet lives," Timothy?*

By prayer.

Evangelistic prayer is of utmost importance.



“When it is remembered that the Roman emperor when Paul wrote this Epistle was the cruel monster Nero—who later put Paul and Peter to death—it will be realized that we should pray for our present rulers, no matter how unreasonable they may seem to be.”

— Ralph Earl.

# Paul's Prayer

- I “urge you,” Timothy...

Four words that encompass every kind of prayers

- Supplications = Knowing a specific need of the lost
- Prayers = General prayers for the lost
- Intercessions = Pleading to God for the lost
- Thanksgivings = Gratitude to God even for the lost

*Paul prayed for the specific needs of his political leaders, pleaded to God for their salvation, thankful for each one.*

“If...a principle of true religion should...gain ground, there is no estimating the effects on public morals, and the consequent influence on our political welfare.”

— William Wilberforce

- Make prayer a serious priority in your life.
- Should God grant salvation to our political leaders, it will do far more than a thousand phone calls could ever do.

# Paul's Passion

“...he [Paul] is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and **kings** and the children of Israel”

— Acts 9:15

- The Lord set Paul apart to proclaim good news to Jews and Gentiles... but also to “kings.”
- Reaching “kings” was part of Paul’s original commission.
- Reaching “kings” was still part of Paul’s commission after thirty years of ministry (1 Tim 2:1-4).



# Paul's Passion

Paul was beaten, stoned, imprisoned, flogged, mocked

- Many trials were due to government. Yet, the apostle never became bitter. Perhaps, the worse the world treated Paul, the softer his heart became for the lost.
- Soft heart—that's how Paul could urge prayer for political leaders and minister to them despite all the pain.
- Soft heart may be what you and I need today.

# Paul's Passion

Did Paul take the gospel to “kings”?

- Serguis Paulus, the Proconsul of Cyprus (Acts 13:6-12)
- Governor Felix (Acts 24)
- King Herod Agrippa II (Acts 25:23 – 26:32)
- Caesar Nero (Acts 25:10-12; 2 Timothy 4:16-17)
- Entire Imperial Guard in Rome (Philippians 1:13)
- Capital Cities (8 of the 14 cities we know Paul visited)

Answer: Yes.

“Christians should stop laughing and take such men seriously. Then we shall have the right to speak again to our generation. These men are dying while they live; yet where is our compassion for them? There is nothing more ugly than a Christian orthodoxy without understanding or without compassion.”

— Francis Schaeffer.

# Putting it into Practice

See curriculum, page 5

- Circle at least two names of the 10 listed. Commit to praying for these daily throughout this course.
- Difficult to mention a name in prayer of someone you know very little about.
- Use Scripture itself as a guide (see examples on p. 5).

By praying for the lost, may God give you a softer heart for them.