

Pray for Politicians *and* Punishment for the Wicked

1 Timothy 2 English Standard Version (ESV)

Pray for All People

2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

The Bible instructs us to pray for all people, including kings and all who are in high places. Many Christians find it difficult to pray for leaders who seem to oppose God at every turn. Many government officials and elected politicians are openly opposed to the true God, or are silenced out of fear because of political correctness. So how can we obey this biblical mandate while being faithful to the one, true God?

We must be mindful that before God saved us, we were all children of wrath and enemies of God, as much any politician, and perhaps the only reason we didn't publicly berate him, was because we didn't have the opportunity. Try something like this.

My sovereign God and King. I am heartbroken that the whole world seems to be in chaos, and that your name is scorned by so many governments and so many people. It may have been like this since creation, but I can't remember a time that it's been worse. The wicked seem to be in control everywhere, slaughtering whoever doesn't agree with them, and many of the dead are your children. It makes me sick and mad!

I pray that you will magnify yourself in all the earth, that you will show all nations and people that you are the true God, that *you* control all things for your own glory and for the benefit of those who love you. I pray that you will extend your kingdom and glorify the name of your Son. I pray that you will convert government leaders to saving faith in Jesus, just like you did for me. Make them turn away from their evil deeds, and repent and begin to live for you, from now on. Put the fear of God in them and cause them to love you and your ways.

As for the evil leaders you choose not to save, I pray that you will make their lies and deceit known to all the people, so they will be completely rejected. I pray that they will be punished severely as you see fit. They present lies as truth and truth as lies. They allow the lawless to prosper and they put the law abiding in jail. Oh God, how long must this continue?

In the end, I know that your plans are wise and they are above my understanding. I put my faith in you. Teach me to enjoy the comfort I receive as your child. Teach me to believe that nothing can separate me from the love of Christ; not trouble or hardship or persecution or even death. Teach me to fear only you,

and to rejoice for the opportunity to suffer disgrace for your name. When the time of testing comes, keep me faithful to you. I pray in the name of the good shepherd, who gave his life for his sheep. Amen.