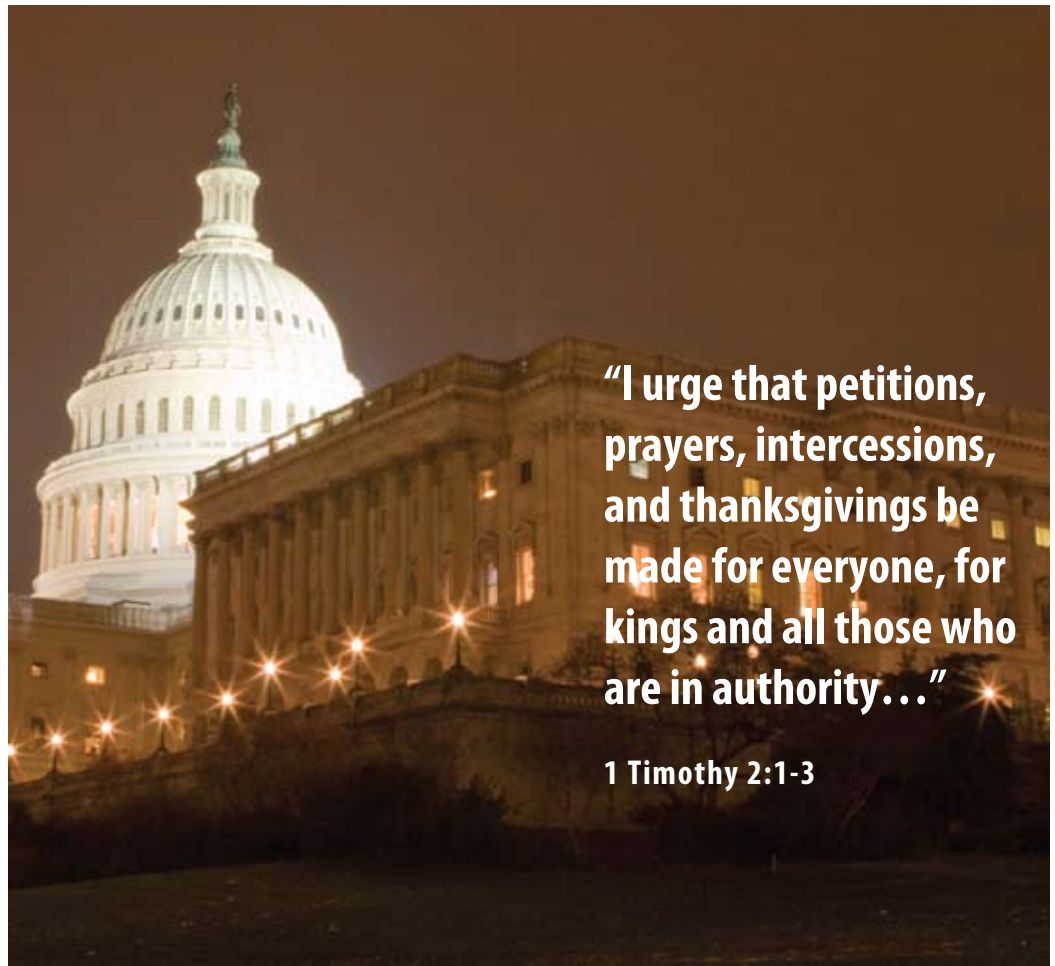


impact

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WE ARE CALLED TO PRAY FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY

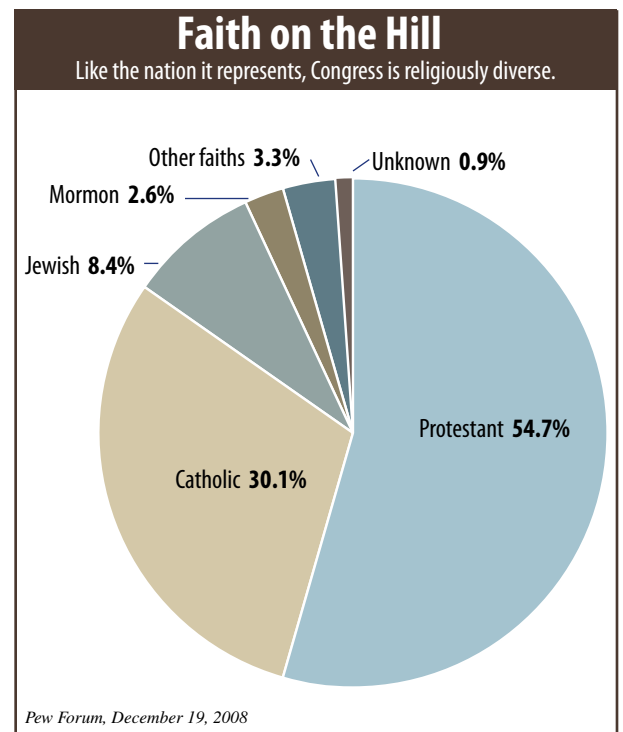
In the Apostle Paul's first letter to Timothy, Paul wrote that the first priority in our fulfillment of our civic duties ("first of all," 1 Timothy 2:1) is to pray. We are to remember everyone, including all those in authority over us, with "petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings."

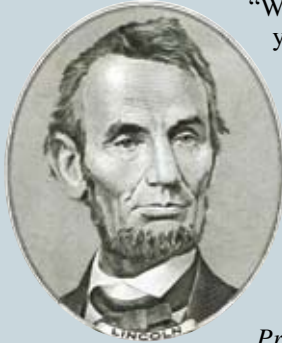
The New Testament church existed in occupied lands, under the watchful eyes of Jewish religious leaders in some areas, and everywhere under the steady and hostile glare of Roman government leaders who were decidedly negative about any worship that didn't involve their gods.

Paul experienced firsthand the wrath of those who opposed his proclamation of the Gospel. And he understood that Christians abused and victimized by government authorities would not be predisposed to remember such officials in prayer.

It wasn't that Paul hoped believers would avoid making a scene so they could avoid harassment from the authorities and simply live quiet lives; he was concerned, not for the comfort of the believers, but that the lost would come to faith in Jesus Christ.

If we are *not* faithful in going to our knees in intercession for our new president and other national leaders, we can be assured that evil will be more *likely* to prevail. We hope that you will join us in praying for our new president, his family, and for those who advise him.





“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

“It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”

President Abraham Lincoln in calling the war-torn nation to a day of prayer and fasting, March 30, 1863

What can you do?

Pray that our president and other national leaders will look to God for His wisdom in dealing with the difficult issues of the day (1 Kings 3:11-12).

Pray for the safety of President Obama and his family, that God would foil the attempts of those who wish to harm him, that his family would be protected and blessed, that they and those around them would always trust God and know His Scriptures (Psa. 119:30; John 17:15; Acts 17:10-11).

Ask that Christ would be glorified by the decisions made in the White House, the Congress, and the Courts, and that good would triumph over evil and selfishness in every policy decision (Psa. 111:10).

Pray that God will protect the lives of the unborn, the innocent, and the defenseless and that those in leadership positions will appreciate the sanctity of all human life (Psa. 139:13-16).

Pray for the preservation of religious liberty in our nation and expansion of that right to countries where the personal expression of faith is hindered (Matt. 22:15-22; Acts 4:18-20).

Pray for laws that encourage moral behavior and

attitudes, that prescribe justice for those who do wrong, that do not fetter free speech, and that recognize the foundational strength of biblical marriage (Isa. 1:17; Rom. 13:1-7).

Recognize that those who wish to do our nation harm will not rest. Ask God to confuse and disarm the wicked in their efforts to spread terror and mayhem (Eph. 6:12).

Pray that we would be willing to make the necessary hard choices and become a part of the solutions to the troublesome problems we face as a nation and that we would be particularly sensitive to those who are struggling (Col. 2:3; 3:23; Isa. 41:6).

Pray for a revival among God’s people and an awakening among those who are in darkness so that God might be glorified and that our country would be a “shining city on a hill” in the world, exporting hope and a future to those who are without hope (Psa. 85:6; 2 Chron. 7:14).

Pray that those who trust in Christ will be faithful in continuing to lift up our president and those in leadership at the federal, state, and local level (Luke 18:7; 1 Tim. 2:1-4).

How to Pray

Praise Praise the Lord and be thankful! Be joyful!
“Enter his gates with a song of thanksgiving” Psalm 100:4

Repent Confess before God and repent, that your heart may be refreshed!
“Repent, then, and turn to God” Acts 3:19

Ask Be bold before the Lord in prayer!
“Ask, and it shall be given you” Luke 11:9

Yield Surrender all to Him. Trust in God!
“Yield yourselves to the Lord” 2 Chronicles 30:8

