

# Why do you pray for the civil leaders?

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**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—Believers benefit greatly from the words in the letters from the apostle Paul to young evangelist Timothy. Let's quickly focus on the words found in 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

Paul wrote: "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."

Have you ever noticed the reason that Paul instructed believers to give supplications and intercessions for those in authority?

Paul's stated reason was not for the success of the nation, province or territory. There is certainly nothing wrong with praying for the success of a nation, province or territory.

(Please recognize that praying for the true success of the people is much different from praying for the political success of leaders. True success of the people depends upon correct values and does not depend upon faulty policies and false hope.)

However, Paul's stated reason for supplication and intercession was for believers to live a quiet and peaceable life. It is advisable for believers to pray for the welfare of their families. It is honorable for believers to pray for the prosperity and comfort of their senior citizens and of their children.

Believers are realistic enough to understand that Paul's words in Romans 13:1-7 are not generally true in the history of mankind.

Sometimes, the civil authorities fight evil as described in verses 3-4.

At other times, the civil authorities perform the evil in society.

Here are only a few quick examples.

- Pharaoh ordered the people to kill infant boys (Exodus 1:22).
- Nebuchadnezzar was willing to kill people who did not worship his image of gold (Daniel 3:1-18).

- Herod ordered the people to kill young children (Matthew 2:13-16).
- Herod beheaded John the Baptist (Matthew 14:6-11).
- Herod killed James and threw Peter into prison (Acts 12:1-3).

Some people probably say that those few examples that I mentioned are the exception and not the rule.

Have you studied your Bible?

Have you contemplated the history of mankind? Do you believe in the prophecies of Revelation 13?

Allow me to leave you with a few reminders.

- We should thank God for each civil leader who helps to protect us from evil.
- Based upon the Bible, history and prophecy, we should not be surprised when civil leaders actually perform the evil in society.
- Let's continue to give supplication and intercession for those in authority—that mankind can live a quiet and peaceable life.
- Enjoy your freedoms as long as you can.