

“Who will have all men to be saved...”

By Roelf L. Ruffner

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Prov. 29:2).

I know of no other President in American history who has done more damage to this country than our current President, Barak Obama. (And that is saying a lot!) Our economy is severely weakened and is now in its seventh year of “recovery” from the Recession of ’08-09. His ineptness at foreign policy makes our enemies laugh at us and our allies distrust us. He has lied repeatedly to the American people. He picks and chooses which laws he will enforce and which he will ignore. And my list of grievances could go on and on!

The President’s greatest infamy has been in the area of morality. Some have called him our first “homosexual” President, not because of his sexual preference but because of his unabashed promotion of the homosexual agenda (cf. Rom. 1:32). He pursues this agenda with the passion of a crusader. When the U.S. Supreme Court recently made law (Rather than interpreting it.) by legalized same-sex marriage nationwide he had the outside of the White House lit up that night in the colors of the rainbow; the so-called “flag” of the homosexual rights movement. “He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD” (Pro. 17:15). As a Christian and a citizen, I fear for the future of our country. “For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the LORD” (2 Chron. 28:19). God did not destroy Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities of the plain because of their inhospitality but because of their support of unrighteousness (Jude 7). Our President has proven himself to be the enemy of righteousness.

Yet what would you say to President Obama if you had a moment with him? My conversation would begin by saying, “Mr. President, I want you to know I am praying for you every day.” I would then express my many concerns from the Scriptures before I would probably be thrown out. Yes, my friends, we must pray fervently and daily for Barack Obama. Consider this command of the apostle Paul and the Holy Spirit:

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

Who were the “kings” Paul asked the church to pray for in their worship? There were various “kings” (client kings) in Paul’s day but he was speaking primarily of the Emperor of the Roman Empire. The Emperor when Paul wrote this epistle was a vile and heinous creature, Caesar Nero. This was the probably the Emperor that Paul was tried before (cf. Acts 25:11; 2 Tim. 4:16,17). In 64 A.D. Nero sought to blame Christians for the burning of Rome and had many thrown to the dogs, executed and crucified. Legend says of Nero that he had Paul executed not long afterwards.

Why were the early Christians to pray for Nero? Why pray for Barak Obama? "...that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:3-4). The Christian should want a stable world so that the all men, including the President, might have the opportunity to hear the Gospel and obey it.

My friends God is at work in the rulers of this world, such as the President, whether we agree with them or not (Daniel 2:21). Even the most vile ruler has authority given him or her by God (Rom. 13:1-7; John 19:10, 11). They will have to answer someday to the Almighty for their misdeeds and abuse of that authority. "And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there. I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work" (Ecc. 3:16, 17).

Let us pray for the nation and the President. Let us also pray that he will be defeated in his efforts to transform this nation into something neither God nor its founders ever intended for it to be. Let us pray that our rulers and our people will repent and follow God rather than the devil. That hearts will be turned from destruction and to the gospel (cf. Acts 4:23-31; 26:18). "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mat. 5:43-45).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nero> as of July 9, 2015