

## **Responsibility of Christian in His Nation.**

### **The first duty of a Christian for our country is prayer.**

1 Timothy 2:1-2, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way!"

"Intercession is the prime responsibility of a Christian. There is no power on earth that can keep intercession out! You may be in any place you wish, praying for anyone you wish, at anytime you wish.

I wish to point out Abraham's example of intercession for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18). Then there is Moses' prayer of intercession for the nation of Israel (Exodus 32). In the New Testament the apostle Paul encouraged Christians to "pray for the emperor" even though that emperor was a mad tyrant like Nero (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

We need to pray daily that God will allow us to live as His salt and light in our society. We must pray day by day asking God to change the hearts of wicked rulers and their team, and if they will not be changed, pray for their removal from office. Then we must pray that godly people will be elected to all levels of public office and serve with contagious wisdom, justice, and love.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14 God promises, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land."

### **The second duty of a Christian in our country is to Register to Vote.**

In the Bible, Jesus told the parable of a householder who went on a long journey and put his property in the charge of his servants (Mk. 13:33-36). And if you live in India, at least part of what God has put you in charge of is the political household of democracy. And you cannot legally discharge your duties unless you take time to register to vote. To register is to stand up and be counted. To register is to take seriously the stewardship God has given you for the nation.

### **The third duty of a Christian in our country is to Become Informed, Inform Others**

Passing on from our duty to pray for the nation and register to vote, the third duty of a Christian to our nation is to "Become informed and inform others". In Mark 13:33-36 Jesus told a parable saying, "Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Watch therefore..... ." It's interesting that in this parable Christ uses the word "watch" four times. And in the Greek it literally means "to drive away sleep." Jesus knew that in a comfortable home it is easy to get lazy, shirk one's duties, and fall asleep. And it is the same with a nation. "We the people" can get so comfortable that we forget our duties, grow less and less alert, and allow our republic to be broken into by tyranny. So Jesus four times says "WATCH!" Wake up! Be informed! Know what's going on!

Have you ever seen a turtle crossing the road? When a car approaches, 5,000 pounds of steel, the turtle solves his problem by ducking inside his little shell. And a lot of good it does him when he gets run over! Yet that is just what so many citizens of our nation are doing today. Abortion, nuclear proliferation, ecological crisis, national deficits, unfair tax structures, lagging world evangelization, creeping humanistic doctrine in our schools, courts, and churches— why, we can't see that big. We don't want to see that big. So we tuck our tails, pull in our heads, and marvel at how safe we are in our little turtle shells of private peace and affluence.

If India falls, surely it will be said of us what was said of the Greeks. "Athenians wanted comfort and security more than they wanted liberty, and, in the end, they lost their liberty, comfort and their security."

God help us. God help us to learn that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. God help us to wake up, to drive away sleep, and to be on watch. To read and listen and think and debate again, to care about what happens to others, to care about what the courts decide, what politicians believe, and what our schools teach. To be informed, to keep others informed, to get involved— this is our third duty as a Christian citizen.

#### **The fourth duty of a Christian in our country is to Help Elect Godly People**

And now our fourth duty: To work for the election of godly people in all levels of office – Panchayat, Village, Taluk, District, State and National.

Did you know that Proverbs 11:11 says, "The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper..."? Jesus called His followers the salt and light of the world (Mt. 5:13-16). And it is our duty still to be His influences in this world.

1 Timothy 3 and Titus both give strict standards to be required of all elected leaders of the church. In Exodus 18:16, 21-22 Moses gives strict standards for the political leaders of Israel. There Moses lists six qualifications for a political leader: Godliness, integrity, industriousness, biblical guidance, demonstrated capability, and justice. And this is still what we should look for in our elected leaders today!

#### **Consider the following:**

God promised to make Abraham a nation.

Moses secured a peoples' freedom from a harsh, unjust political rule, and led them out to begin a new nation.

The Ten Commandments are laws, social laws, on which a nation was founded.

The prophets called nations to reform, to "let justice roll down!"

Ezra was a Jew in the Persian government who fixed it so Persian tax money was used to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

Queen Esther of Old Testament fame laid her life on the line by getting involved in politics.

And Christ, our Jesus, told us to "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesars."

On the basis of biblical truth, Christians for centuries have been involved in politics. There is Constantine, who in 312 A.D. became the first Christian emperor of Rome and made it legal for Christians to publically worship Christ. There is John Calvin in the 1500's preaching Christ in Geneva, Switzerland. A lawyer by training, he worked tirelessly to attract textile industry to Switzerland so there would be jobs for the people. And then it was concerned Christian citizens like Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Newton, William Wilberforce, Lord Shutesbury, Abe Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr. who took things a step further and gave freedom to all regardless of color, sex or creed.

All this, and you tell me politics and religion don't mix? The fact is, God commands them to mix! God says in Psalm 125:3, "For the wicked shall not rule the godly, lest the godly be forced to do wrong."

Consider how easy Christians can again become political salt and light in India. There are approximately ..... voter precincts in India. And these precincts are the key to getting elected. Why, a concerned Christian citizen can easily secure a local precinct map covering the district in which his candidate is running for office. That district in which his candidate is running for office. That same Christian leader could enlist five or ten helpers, divide up the streets on the map, and in 20 hours of work a week for 12 weeks visit every home in the area and favorably present their candidate for office. Thus a relatively few Christians, say around 10 million, could again give new salt and light to our nations political system.

**The fifth duty of a Christian in our country is to Vote in the Elections.**

What are your five duties as a Christian citizen to this nation? The first four are: Pray, register, be informed and inform others, and help elect godly leaders. And now the fifth is to vote.

Proverbs 25:19 says that "Putting confidence (or voting for) in an unreliable man is like chewing with a sore tooth, or trying to run on a broken foot." God wills us to put our trust in men of character. See in Numbers 16 and Exodus 32:25-35 how Israel in the wilderness rallying around Moses as their chosen leader? Then again, after the death of Saul, and later Absalom, the public rallied around David as their king (2 Samuel 1-5 and 2 Samuel 15-19). This is what our vote is. It is our pledge of confidence, our rallying around the candidate we believe God has given to lead us.

Failure to vote is a growing sin here in India.

And the question is, why? Oh, we like to say that our little vote can't make any difference.

Another excuse we give for refusing to vote is that we don't like any of the candidates. Undoubtedly today we expect too little of ourselves and too much from our leaders. And, too, doubtlessly we are expecting things of politicians that only God can provide. And none of this excuses us from the responsibility of voting for the best available candidate. For the truth will always be that bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote!