

Daily Devotional, June 3, 2020

“Authority”, (1 Timothy 2:2, NKJV)

“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.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

“Authority” is being challenged in our country by certain anarchist, and other groups that benefit from its breakdown. But it is anti-Christian to seek a societal breakdown of authority. Authority is a biblical concept. The Bible is the authoritative book which presents God as the ultimate Authority. Under His authority is all of His creation, including humankind. The Lord Himself establishes the authority of the man over the woman in marriage (Genesis 3:16). Both parents are then in authority over their children (Exodus 20:12). The families of the earth are then placed under the authority of human government, whose job it is to maintain order by restraining and punishing sin in the society (Genesis 9:6; Romans 13:1-7). Law and order are clear biblical concepts, ordained by the Creator.

Now there will be abuses of authority from time to time. But in America, they are exceptions and not the rule. It may seem like they are exceedingly common, but just the fact that when they happen, they become news, tells us that gross abuses of authority are not regular events. If they were, there would be a video of each and every one of them on social media. As Christians, we want justice when authority is abused. But we also want rightful and appropriately applied authority to be in place, so we can have a safe society. So, we pray for those in authority, that they might wield it wisely. And we keep ourselves free from any appearance of evil, and away from any place where evil is determined. And we expect the authorities to punish evildoers when they commit crimes. So we pray for those in authority, as the Scriptures say. And we support and pray for our men and women, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, in law enforcement also. Things are very uneasy these days. The only thing that stands between total anarchy and unrestrained crime in society is organized law enforcement. We have been blessed for many years in this country to “live a quiet and peaceable life.” Let us pray that order is maintained and restored, and that we are able to freely express and share our faith awhile longer. After recent events, we are seeing how uncertain our freedoms are. So let us pray “Help, LORD” (Psalm 12:1). And may God preserve the safety of and guide those in authority to do right and act wisely.