



Miracles that follow the plow :: PRAY for America

PRAY for America - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/10/8 9:57

Dear Praying Friends,

On November 4, 2008 Americans everywhere will vote for our next President. We, as Christians must pray that God will turn the tide.

Jesus says "Call onto me and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." How can we expect God to give us a good president, if all we do is sit around and do nothing about it?

PLEASE join me on the 14, 21, 28 of October and the 4 of November in a day of fasting and praying for our country! BUT, you have to be serious about it, please don't go into this with half a heart, we need to seek God's face! This is very a serious time in our history and we can do something to change the outcome!! We can do it, we MUST do it!!!

Thank you

(This is NOT a political statement, this is a prayer request.)

Re: PRAY for America, on: 2008/10/8 10:53

To all my Christians friends. I ask you to look at the current landscape of the world. Its time for Christians to urge people to put all their faith in Christ and Christ alone. Everything else is a distraction at this serious juncture.....brother Frank

Re:, on: 2008/10/8 10:57

JRuth... I believe you are sincere in your prayer request, but at the same time it was a political statement. Please read the rules of the forum, particularly the part banning political discussions. It has proven over and over to be the most divisive subject on here... and more people have been kicked out of here because of the passion involved with this topic.

So please refrain from posts like this.

By the way, this doesnt mean I disagree with you! ;-)

Krispy

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/10/8 12:12

"When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan." Proverbs 29:2

Re: PRAY for America - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/10/8 12:16

Quote:
-----We MUST pray . . .

Re: PRAY for America - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2008/10/8 12:22

When did God endorse McCain/Palin ?? That's news to me!!

By the way, we must pray for all those who have been given authority to govern us, judges, Senators, governors, and presidents, too!! (see I Timothy 2:1-2)

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/10/8 12:24

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face." Psalm 89:14

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever, The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:6-7

This nation has departed from righteousness and justice which is the very foundation of His throne. Pray for revival that God would turn this nation back to His righteousness and justice.

Re:, on: 2008/10/8 12:39

Quote

'This nation has departed from righteousness and justice which is the very foundation of His throne. Pray for revival that God would turn this nation back to His righteousness and justice. "

There has never been a nation that was Righteous or just and there never will be until the Lord establishes His own Kingdom, may it come soon.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/10/8 12:51

Revelation 22:1-5

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/10/8 13:24

"Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34).

Re:, on: 2008/10/8 14:25

Seems to me that when Righteousness is self-proclaimed, then it is self-righteousness. Perhaps it would be better to be humble before the living God and ask for forgiveness and repent, rather than to seek to re-establish a time that may or may not have existed in the past? Just my thoughts.....brother Frank

Re:, on: 2008/10/8 14:27

"And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. "

Now that is something that I can pray for brother, oh Lord come quickly.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/10/8 15:45

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Re: PRAY for America - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/10/8 17:15

I get many emails imploring people to pray for the upcoming elections. People are running scared...then my mind goes back four years, eight years and so people prayed and the person they thought that should win the election did. In recent days I am wondering how much of the mess our country is in is because God's people left off in their fervency to pray for our civil leaders? This question dogs me....do we think that once our guy wins all the problems will be easily solved? and we can relax? and do?

This is what has been going through my mind in recent days...and I wonder.

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/10/8 17:21

Wow!!

That is a good thought. And I think that yes, we have stopped praying, we thought that once the "right guy" was in, all our problems would go away. And now that they didn't, we blame it on that person. When really its all our fault!!!

Thank you ginnyrose!

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/10/8 17:45

1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks, be made for all men;

1Ti 2:2 For kings, and all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

1Ti 2:3 For this good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

1Ti 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Re: PRAY for America, on: 2008/10/8 18:33

Before I jump on the bandwagon I must ask myself: Is such a call to prayer *really* according to the will of God?

I remember a verse in Jeremiah:

Quote:
-----Jer 14:11 Then the Lord said to me, "Do not pray for this people, for their good.
Jer 14:12 "When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them

by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."

Here is the verse preceding this one:

Quote:
-----Jer 14:10 Thus says the Lord to this people: "Thus they have loved to wander; They have not restrained their feet. Therefore the Lord does not accept them; He will remember their iniquity now, And punish their sins."

The Lord has determined to punish the sins of His people and there is no turning back. So He tells Jeremiah not to pray for them, for their good.

Perhaps America will turn back to Lord, if ever, only after His judgments have come upon her, for in His judgments He is made known. If the righteous judgment of God cannot put people down on their knees, then what can?

Remember how Abraham prayed for the *righteous* men in Sodom? He didn't pray for the salvation of the wicked population of Sodom, but for the righteous, of which was Lot, and the righteous were *barely* saved. You know what happened--and what happens--to the ungodly.

Sometimes we get too sentimental and somehow want God to not administer justice, to pardon sin without confession and repentance. Thus we pray for things contrary to His will--for things that we would like to see happen. Like praying for revival in the land, when God has said that it will be judged because of the people's continuous idolatry and rejection. This happens because we want to have the former faithfulness restored without paying the price of our disobedience. We don't understand what sin is and what it deserves. Indeed, there are times when we cry out for revival, but there also are times when we pray for the judgment of God to come. "Come, Lord Jesus!" For when He comes, sin shall be no more. In fact, the two (revival and judgment) could be the result of one and the same thing. But it is often our unwillingness to acknowledge and accept God's ultimate judgment of sin--beginning with our own sin--which makes us continually intercede for the ungodly and the backslidden, that in spite of everything they would be spared. It is easier for us to relate to men than to God. So we pray on their behalf instead of beseeching them on His. It's like we've become sinners' advocates, not Christ's ambassadors.

I am also reminded of how the Lord prayed for the people who crucified Him: "Forgive them, Father, for they don't know what they are doing." He prayed for those who persecuted Him, leaving us an example. But also, when He prayed for His disciples before Golgotha, the Lord Jesus did not pray for those who did not receive Him: "Joh 17:9 I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours." Not for the world, but for those God has called out of the world or will call out.

So when we talk about praying for America, we need to ask ourselves *who* it is we are praying for, and *why*, and *whether* such prayer is the will of God. He has promised us "the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him" to those who ask of Him:

Quote:

Luk 11:9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
Luk 11:10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
Luk 11:11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?
Luk 11:12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?
Luk 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/10/8 18:34

Quote:
-----In recent days I am wondering how much of the mess our country is in is because God's people left off in their fervency to pray for our civil leaders? This question dogs me....do we think that once our guy wins all the problems will be easily solved? and we can relax? and do?

Edit: Good question...comments deleted...

MC

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2008/10/8 19:00

Indeed, be in much prayer for our nation. Times of violence are ahead.

Re:, on: 2008/10/8 19:52

Good word notme....much wisdom....brother Frank

Re: Prayer focus - posted by JoanM, on: 2008/10/8 20:09

Is there bondage in America? In Scotland? Is it a matter of the President who is ruling over us? Do we feel our chains?

From Exodus 2:23-25:After years and years of slavery, a new political leader did not make a difference. And a generation got it. *And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto . We have a better covenant: Heb. 8:6 *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a **better covenant**, which was established upon **better promises**.**

Is there anyone on this web site that does not know we are talking freedom from the bondage of sin in every single life in this country? In my life. We can hear Ravenhill: "What are you saved from?" It is not so much that the country needs revival or we Christians are ruined, we need revival or we are ruined. We know this. We say this. But do we feel our chains?

God also causes government leadership to acknowledge truth that they cannot fix the problem(s). 2 Kings 6:26-27: *And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. And he said, If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress?*

Someone on this site spoke of Churchill calling England to fasting and prayer and God hearing. It was no National Day of Prayer event, as good as that can be, with breakfasts and speakers. With Churchill it was more like, *If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee.*

We have a better covenant and better promises. We that know them can plead them. He will not leave us as orphans.

I understand praying for our leaders. I believe that God is pressing many, Jruth included, with the necessity for prayer. My prayer for leaders is out of 2 Kings 6. Otherwise, I am praying for Revival, for real, on the streets, sweeping Biblical Revival. Enough of reading about it and hearing reports of it, as wonderful and encouraging as that is.

I had better stop.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiss () , on: 2008/10/8 20:21

Praying for America.
Praying for my neighbors.
Praying for the outcome of this election.
Praying for millions of unborn babies who are continuously slaughtered.

- But it is not enough to simply pray for the hungry. We must feed them.
- It is not enough to pray for the thirsty. We must give them something to drink.
- It is not enough to pray for those imprisoned. We must visit them.
- It is not enough to pray for the cold and shivering. We must give them clothes.
- It is not enough to simply pray for the slaughtered, unborn children...

In fact, I feel compelled to PRAY, EVANGELIZE, ACT and voice my beliefs via my right to vote.

I am reminded of the lyrics of a Keith Green song.

A Billion Starving People

by Keith Green

VERSE 1

I find it hard to turn away,
a billion starving people.
But what can one do,
I've heard you say
- you can't save someone's life!

CHORUS 1

I want to save a life today,
I want to get someone close with my Father.

Be them the bread of life today,
I want to help them get stronger,
help them last longer
And give them a chance to see Jesus.

VERSE 2

I find it hard to just ignore,
the murdered unborn children,
Yes times have changed,
but still God warns,
you shall not take a life.

CHORUS 2

I want to save a life today,
I want to keep one alive for my Father
-- who will avenge the blood
of weak and helpless ones someday
-- whose lives are spilled out like water,
like lambs in the slaughter,
and each one is handmade by Jesus.

REFRAIN

I find it hard to turn away, a billion starving people, a billion starving people.

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Quote:
-----Matthew 25:31-46

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

:~)

Re:, on: 2008/10/8 20:58

The phrase "its not enough to pray," Hmmm. In a land that is full of good works, I would argue that prayer is the problem, and always plays the poor relation to everything else. There is a lack of prayer in every level of Christianity. There is a reason that Western Christianity is in the state its in, its a lack of prayer (intimacy with God) Barna wrote a couple of years ago, that over 90% of professing Christians have never saw anyone come to the Lord through their personal sharing. He went on to say that if every professing Christian brought one person to Christ, and that one brought one, and then that one brought one, in less than three years the whole world would be saved. But we dont really believe that. We think that the answers lie with men, it does not. The definition of madness is to do the same thing over and over again and expect a different result. Our one hope, as Christians, for the world, is Christ. When Christians actually get on their knees and turn from their wicked ways then, and only then will God hear from heaven and perhaps heal our land.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2008/10/8 21:51

Brother, I think that you read FAR too much into that phrase. It is NOT ENOUGH to pray for forgiveness if we still choose to live in sin. It is not enough to pray for the poor, the sick or the widowed without showing our prayerful love with action.

Yes, brother, there is a need for prayer. But you need to know that the prayers of many are dead. At any given Sunday, there will be a hundred thousand congregations offering up millions of prayers. Yet those same people refuse to live for the One to whom they pray.

Real prayer -- communication and intimacy with God -- is needed more than ever. But offering our prayers to this world

without lifting a finger to help them is hypocritical. Faith without works, as you know, is DEAD.

This world is dying. It is going to Hell in a handbasket. We need to pray. But we should already know that! That is our vitality -- and I might add that a Christian who does not pray is probably not a Christian at all. We should be constantly in living communion with our God. This is what separates our faith from the faiths of this present world. They say prayer is out of obligation or need. We speak to God in order to know Him and fellowship with Him.

I agree with much of what you said. However, I certainly agree with the gist of the initial post. This temporary land that houses our temporary citizenship is poised to make a huge decision in November that will affect the world. It will affect the lives of millions (and deaths of unborn children). We need to pray for our neighbors. We need to pray for our families. We need to pray for our leaders. But I agree: We need to pray BEFORE, DURING and AFTER the election.

But we aren't simply called to pray...and leave it at that. We need to put actions with our prayers. If God impresses us to do something, we must do it. We should work for His good and His glory while we are still confined to this temporary place. I have a wife...and I am trying to do my best to provide for her in every way. I certainly pray for her well-being, but I also try to work and earn an income to support her. Likewise, I pray for this nation. But I think that we should provide a little "faith in action" with our prayers. I'm convinced that you would agree!

God bless you, brother!

:)

Re:, on: 2008/10/9 0:02

Chris writes "I'm convinced that you would agree!"Its not always wise to say that about a Scotsman :)

Everything you said in your previous post I would agree with apart from the vote part. There is nothing at all in Scripture to support your claim that one must vote. If you feel so led brother, then I say more power to you but lets not make your philosophical stance a Scriptural one. It is neither Scriptural nor unscriptural to vote. I have stated, as have many good brothers and sisters on SI, that we stand upon the Word of God and nothing else, and many of us have paid a price for that and that's OK.

Here is where I stand and I am unashamed of it. 100% of all my hope is in Jesus. I have 0% hope in politicians, regardless of what kind they are. That is my personal opinion. If my children came and asked me "Daddy, I have a choice to make and they are both bad, but one is less bad than the other," the lesser of two evils scenario, I would advise my children "choose neither." Even if it hurts them.

Listen brother, I love you man and I refuse to let politics even remotely come between us. Let us each have our philosophical opinions. You vote and feel good about it. Here is what I know we can agree on, the plain and simple Word of God. On that we can unite and on that we can face a common enemy.

When we pray, we come into the presence of God. When we come into the presence of God, we are changed. When we are changed, He gets the glory, when He gets the glory, then people are drawn to Him. Its that simple. As you seek God's Kingdom first and His righteousness, then everything else in your life will fall into His place. It is my opinion, and I may be wrong, that the vast majority of Christians in America have put a large proportion of their trust and faith in men. They urge prayer for certain people out of fear. And strangely enough, all their fears come to pass anyway. Fear is the opposite of faith and perhaps these are exactly the dead prayers that you spoke of.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/10/9 0:44

Quote:

..... strangely enough, all their fears come to pass anyway.

Lately I have come to see that there is a direct correlation between that which I fear and that which comes to pass. It is a trick of the enemy. He gets us to focus on something that we might lose, and in so doing, gets us to turn away from trusting God in that area - and as we are turned away, Satan is able to snatch it from us.

We are to fear God - and God alone.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiss () , on: 2008/10/9 0:56

Hi appoulos...

Thank you, brother. However, I didn't say that "one must vote" (at least, I don't think that I said it). I don't feel that every one must vote. However, I feel strongly that voting is not the equivalent to placing our faith and trust in men. Sometime s, it is simply sharing an opinion about the direction we would prefer our temporary country to go. But I don't think that e veryone must vote.

I am happy that you are satisfied with your non-voting position. But let me also be clear: 100% of my hope is in Jesus to o. My choice to vote is not indicative of a heart that hopes in the people or things of this world, or a notion that ANY choi ce is perfect, or an idea that I have hope in politicians. However, I still hate abortion. I reject the idea that certain loud i ndividuals desiring office might want to infringe on my freedom to publicly share or proclaim my faith. I reject the notion th at an activist judge or legislature might want to penalize preachers who speak against sin and immorality. I reject those i n government who want to use our taxpayer dollars to support "artists" who mock and ridicule Christ or use their "art" as a form of pornography. I reject those politicians who try to protect pornographers who peddle their smut to lustful men, women and teens. I vote against a government, party or proposition that might want to redefine marriage to include hom osexuals or wants to teach sex education to young children without their parents permission or take away parents' right t o teach their own children. This is not placing hope in politicians. Rather, it can be argued that it is voicing a lack of trus t in politicians!

I agree with you, brother. I love you dearly as a member of the family of God. While I personally feel compelled to vote out of what I feel to be a responsibility to my earthly family, friends, neighbors and city (and the privilege to share my voi ce regarding the direction of the government's policies), I would try my best not to judge a brother who chooses to not ex ercise that voice. Of course, this is sometimes harder to do with some other brethren who loudly preach against voting a s though it exemplified worldliness. It is also difficult to withhold my feelings when some brethren are quite critical of cert ain examples of government policy, but did nothing to try and squelch that policy with a vote.

Anyway, I certain agree with a need to pray! We need to pray for ourselves, our families, our neighbors, our communitie s and our nations. I am still praying for a great move of God to flood this nation before the end comes! I certainly want t he Lord to return, but I it would be great gain to have even more people prepared to meet Him!

:-)

Re:, on: 2008/10/9 10:17

Hi Chris

Just for clarification, I do not have a non-voting position. I have a non-fearing position. You say that one of the reasons t hat you vote is because some politicians may infringe on your freedoms to share the Gospel. Yet the Scripture clearly sa ys that He who the Son sets free is free indeed. No matter who is in office, we will always be free to share the Gospel. N ow, perhaps there would be a price to pay for doing so, and it is this that i have found that causes fear amongst Christia ns. I am not saying this is your postition Chris, because I do not know you.

Heartsong said this

"Lately I have come to see that there is a direct correlation between that which I fear and that which comes to pass. It is a trick of the enemy. He gets us to focus on something that we might lose, and in so doing, gets us to turn away from tru sting God in that area - and as we are turned away, Satan is able to snatch it from us. We are to fear God - and God alon e."

I totally endorse that statement. The Bible has a lot to say about fear. We read in Job chapter three that what Job greatly feared came upon him.

Just think Chris, if the government penalized preachers for sharing the Gospel, we would probably have a lot less pedler s of the Gospel, false teaches and wolves in sheeps clothing. Only those truly sold out would stand up and boldy proclai m the truth. So again, I would say to all Christians, if you are voting out of fear, then you must repent. Trust in God alone . Do not choose the lesser of two evils, it is not a Godly philosophy. If you do not vote out of fear, but simply want to carr y out your civic duty and all of your trust is in Jesus, then I would say, go ahead, vote. Under those circumstances I woul

d see no problem with voting.brother Frank

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/10/9 12:14

The other night I went out with someone, and as we were driving the vice presidential debates came on the radio. Typically, I do not listen to such things, but this person wanted to hear the debates, so there I was, stuck listening to what I view as rhetoric. Kidnapped as it were.

At one point, Palin started to falter - and I realized with instant clarity that I was to pray for her - that God put me in this situation so that I might pray. I prayed that the Lord would give her strength to come forth with whatever it was that He would have said - and to give those words power and strength.

This is how we are to pray - that His will be done. To bind the forces of evil that would endeavor to destroy that which is the will of the Lord. If He puts it upon our heart to vote - we must vote. If He puts it upon our heart to pray - we must pray. Keeping our eyes upon Him at all times and being fully accepting of that which is His will, and good pleasure, to do.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiss (), on: 2008/10/9 12:27

Hi appolus...

Thanks for the clarification. However, please bare with me as I do the same.

I don't hold a "must vote" position. I don't hold a "fear the future" or "fear the government" position either. I simply disagree with those who try to claim that the Scriptures prohibit voting. By your words, you are obviously not in that group. However, from time-to-time, there are believers who take an almost absolute stand against any sort of participation in the voting process. They have explained that they equate it to becoming "entangled" with the affairs of the world. I simply disagree with such a notion.

But let me make it clear: I don't fear this government (or ANY government). I am concerned, however, that this nation's government allows the murder of unborn children. Further, I do not want a new justice on the Supreme Court (or multiple appointed judges in Federal Courts) to cement or extend that slaughter of the unborn. I am disappointed by the fact that activist judges from the Left could attempt to define morality and then force it upon our pulpits, schools, laws and even in our very homes. I don't fear it (because I will still preach the Gospel), but I don't want it to happen nonetheless.

Brother, this isn't "voting out of fear" any more than you are NOT voting out of fear. It is recognizing the wrong direction that some are trying to turn this nation and attempting to correct it via my voice (my vote). How is this any different that a parent who expresses his concern at his child's school regarding an issue over what is being taught? It is not fear that promotes me to vote, but love for my wife, family, fellow believers, community and, indeed, the sheep without a shepherd of this present world.

Quote:
-----Just think Chris, if the government penalized preachers for sharing the Gospel, we would probably have a lot less peddlers of the Gospel, false teachers and wolves in sheep's clothing. Only those truly sold out would stand up and boldly proclaim the truth.

I agree that you are probably right. But are you actually ENDORSING this? It sounds as if you almost WANT this sort of persecution to come simply to separate the wheat from the tares or the sheep from the goats. But this isn't our job. There were still weeds and goats (and false teachers) at the beginning of the Church. Even in the face of persecution, there is false doctrine. Look at the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and other cults. Persecution, they claim, actually caused them to grow in numbers and religious ambition.

I suppose that we can agree that we should not vote out of fear. We should vote out of love for those around us. We should cast our voice (our vote) in just what direction that we think our nation's policies should go. Some policies are clear (abortion, homosexual activism, suppression of public displays of faith, etc...) and others are not so clear. But should we simply wait around, complain about everything and neglect to cast a vote simply because the End is inevitable (and we have embraced the end)?

If Paul truly wanted to simply die, he shouldn't have used the Roman Empire's government/legal system to "appeal unto Caesar," testified to Festus or preached to Caesar's household. I'm sure that Paul, like the rest of us who know the Lord, longed for the end to come. But rather, Paul realized TO LIVE IS CHRIST. Death is certainly great gain. But Paul remained because he had a work to do. While that work did not consist of "voting," it did entail Paul's use of his temporary citizenship.

citizenship (even invoking it to save him from a flogging). He used that temporary citizenship to begin preaching to kings and princes.

Anyway, I am glad that we agree that we should not vote out of fear. In fact, we shouldn't even live in fear! And I am glad that you don't stand opposed to voting (or look down on those who do as being misled). This nation allows believers to have public opportunities that never existed anywhere in the world. Yes, believers have always evangelized, but never without fear of legislated persecution. There are some today who would take away such freedom. In the end, they will likely win. But I don't want that end to come yet. I want another day, another week, another year to spread the Gospel (as the Church -- including me -- has largely squandered this freedom from persecution). I don't fear the persecution that will eventually come (not at all). I would gladly lay down my life for the Gospel! But I am not hoping to hasten that persecution either.

:)

Re:, on: 2008/10/9 14:03

Hi Chris

First of all, I appreciate the fact that you and I can discuss our differences as adults, but more especially as believers. I am sure this discussion can and will be helpful to many people, especially at this particular time. So in that light, let me answer some of the questions and points that you raised...you wrote.....

"However, from time-to-time, there are believers who take an almost absolute stand against any sort of participation in the voting process. They have explained that they equate it to becoming "entangled" with the affairs of the world. I simply disagree with such a notion."

I would simply say Chris that there are far more Christians who express the opposite opinion, and in fact, many Christian leaders including Dr Dobson and Pat Robertson and so on who have expressed a view that it is ungodly not to vote. This is not scriptural.

You wrote.....

"It sounds as if you almost WANT this sort of persecution to come simply to separate the wheat from the tares or the sheep from the goats."

Chris, if I was given the choice, I would rather live in a country where there was persecution and a Church that was alive, than in a country where there was no persecution and the Church was asleep or lukewarm. We know what Jesus says about being lukewarm. Perhaps you do not believe that the Church in America is lukewarm? If that is the case, then we have a genuine difference of opinion.

My answer to the abortion and homosexual question will definitely be different from yours. You seek to legislate the problems, not recognizing that you live in a secular country. Do you believe that Christians should take over the country? Run the country and pass laws in keeping with the 10 Commandments? That is a genuine question Chris, there are many people with the Dominionist view. It is a legitimate view, just one that I do not agree with.

Since 1969 every president was a Republican apart from Carter and Clinton. How has that affected the abortion issue or the homosexual issue?

Let me repeat these devastating numbers. 93% of professing Christians have never seen any one come to Jesus by their personal sharing. Now brother, where does the problem lie in this country? Do you want another 100 years so Christians can continue to not share the Gospel? Your argument holds no water. Perhaps this particular stat has no bearing on your own walk with Jesus, but it does reflect upon the Church as a whole. No, in my opinion, it's time for Christians to be completely sold out to Jesus and Him alone and look for all of their answers from Him and Him alone. My prayer, and many on this forum's prayers is, that God would revive His people. That He would open their eyes to their true state. That if there is darkness in the land, it's because someone turned the light down. The wicked world is wicked, no new news there. The Lord clearly identifies the health of a nation by the state of the Church, not by the state of politics. He says that "If my people who are called by my name would humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways, then He would hear from heaven and heal their land." You see where the onus is on Chris? Not on the wicked world. Not on how bad the secular people are, we already know that, the onus and the focus is on the poor state of the Church. Look at the stats from t

he Welsh revival. When you look at the court records, you will see a dramatic drop in the crime rate because large amounts of people were coming to Christ. Bars were closing down. It effected all of society. That is what America needs today brother, that and that alone. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God ...and all these things shall be added unto you."

Jas 1:2 My brothers, count it all joy when you fall into different kinds of temptations,

Jas 1:3 knowing that the trying of your faith works patience.

Jas 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing.

Jas 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and with no reproach, and it shall be given to him.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed.

Jas 1:7 For do not let that man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord;

Jas 1:8 he is a double-minded man, not dependable in all his ways.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2008/10/9 17:07

Hi appolus...

There are certainly quite a few Christians (or those who claim to be Christians) who profess a belief in voting. However, that doesn't make it wrong. Many professing Christians also profess that we are obligated to pay our taxes (although there is a minority who refuse). Yet Jesus gave us an example by supernaturally paying taxes (via a fish) and reminded us to "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's."

In this nation, there is no Caesar. There is no dictator. There is no king. Rather, this nation's government is its people. It is a government "of the people, by the people and for the people" (to quote Lincoln). Each of us are allowed the opportunity to cast a vote in which we voice the direction that we want our nation to go. Believe me: There are forces that are almost "praying" for Christians to NOT vote! Abortionists, Homosexual activists, pornographers (who peddle smut to children and lustful men), public school teacher unions (who want to remove our ability to homeschool), and those who hope that any reference to Christianity can be removed from our nation – they are all hoping that Christians will choose to NOT vote in November.

I would also like to explain that Dr. Dobson, Pat Robertson and any of the other famous Christians do not speak for me. I don't agree with the doctrinal views of many of these men. I certainly don't agree that it is unscriptural to refrain from voting (although I have never heard them say such. But then again, I don't listen to them).

Quote:
----- Chris, if I was given the choice, I would rather live in a country where there was persecution and a Church that was alive, than in a country where there was no persecution and the Church was asleep or luke-warm. We know what Jesus says about being lukewarm. Perhaps you do not believe that the Church in America is lukewarm? If that is the case, then we have a genuine difference of opinion.

But is it possible to have a living Church even in a land of plenty?

I think that this is a legitimate point of disagreement. You see, your statement seems to convey the idea that the *entire* Church is dead in complacency. I certainly believe that the modern Church, as an institutional system, is dead, dying or lukewarm. Yet I am not. My heart still burns with a passionate hunger to know and fellowship with Christ! The brethren who fellowship here at SermonIndex are not. Many of the good brothers and sisters that I know are just as hungry and thirsty for the things of God as many of us. In fact, there is a vibrant Body of Christ that is alive and well – even outside of the scope of persecution. Yes, there are members of the Body of Christ that are lukewarm. But are you one of them? Am I?

That is the difficulty of speaking of the entire Body of Christ around the world (or in America) in such broad terms. Even when Christ spoke to those seven Churches of Asia in the second and third chapters of Revelation, He didn't lump them together in one entirely generality. He spoke specifically to the Church in Ephesus (a city), Sardis (a city), Laodicea (a city), etc... This was a time where there weren't denominations or separate fellowships in the same town. There was one Church in each place, and such generalities are far more sweeping and reflective of the people. It is far more difficult to properly address the western Church with such generalities – because there are so many shades within the Body of Christ here.

It also seems like you have supposed that the Body of Christ would be better off with persecution. Why? If persecution were to come to the true Church, I admit that the distinction between the true Body of Christ and the pretenders might be far more apparent. However, the false Church would still remain. Yet like I stated earlier, even cults that tie themselves to Christianity seem to thrive under persecution. The Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and many others seem to thrive under persecution. I suppose that the only Church that might fall apart would be the "name it/claim it" prosperity churches. Even though that might be a good thing, do you really wish that our families, friends, neighbors, cities, and congregations – and effectively, CHRIST himself would be persecuted just so that distinction is more apparent?

I truly believe that we need a revival in this land. Yet we need a move of God that can occur even if the Church is not persecuted. Otherwise, we might blame that revival on persecution, rather than honest love for Christ. There have been revivals in this nation at times that persecution did NOT exist. The Great Awakening, the Second Great Awakening, the Welsh Revival and other regional revivals took place outside of the scope of great persecution. Such a revival can take place again. That is what I pray.

Quote:
----- My answer to the abortion and homosexual question will definitely be different from yours. You seek to legislate the problems, not recognizing that you live in a secular country. Do you believe that Christians should take over the country? Run the country and pass laws in keeping with the 10 Commandments? That is a genuine question Chris, there are many people with the Dominionist view. It is a legitimate view, just one that I do not agree with.

Actually, brother, you misunderstand my views. I don't assume that the answer lay in whether or not we can legislate SIN or GODLINESS. I will say that some local and state governments have lately had a tendency of not only legislating sin, but pushing certain sins upon the people of this nation. Legislation has made it possible for schools to teach that homosexuality, lust, premarital sex, rebellion and abortion are normal and should be applauded. So the legislation of sin is already taking place.

I don't have any children. But once I do, I do not want this government to say that I cannot teach them Godly truths simply because they don't think that I should. I don't want this government telling me what I can or cannot say or teach in regard to the faith. I don't want the government to charge me with hate crimes for simply stating the fact that homosexuality is ungodly and unnatural. I don't want this government to use my tax dollars as a means to murder millions of unborn babies (or to be used to pay for "secret" abortions for children without their parents ever finding out).

Do I think that Christians should take over the country? I tell you what – it would be a good thing and a bad thing. It would be a good thing to have righteous men in office. It would be a bad thing because it is difficult to get two Christians to agree on ANYTHING regarding specific doctrines. It is ridiculous to assume that a desire to elect Christians or godly men is reflective of a "Dominionist" view. Rather, it simply reflects a desire to prevent the total domination of EVIL in every aspect of this nation. I am not a Dominionist at all. Yet I pray for there to be Christians who make the decisions in our city, state and country. Why? It is a whole lot better than having atheists making all of the decisions for us!

Quote:
----- Since 1969 every president was a Republican apart from Carter and Clinton. How has that effected the abortion issue or the homosexual issue?

Glad you asked! Abortion is now at the lowest rate since it was legalized! A couple of weeks ago, I added a news article to the forums about how abortion had fallen to its lowest levels ever (even though the population has increased significantly). Approximately 200,000 – 400,000 less lives are murdered each year now compared with just a few years ago.

The abortion rate was at its highest during the Carter Administration. Ronald Reagan signed an executive order preventing our taxpayer dollars to be used to fund abortions or abortion research. George Bush (41) kept that order. Reagan and Bush also appointed individuals to the Supreme Court who were not judicial activists. Clinton, on the other hand, lifted the gag order and allowed our money to pay for abortions in the United States and Africa! He also appointed two judicial activists to the Court – who remain the two most liberal members of the Court. They have voted ONLY in favor of a bortion – regardless of the facts. They also vote in favor of homosexual activism and even secular humanism that attempts to remove all aspects of the Christian faith from our history. Bush (43) has appointed two conservative members to the Court. As a result, abortion rights groups are fearful of bringing any appeals to the Court, because they fear that it would be counterproductive. These groups, however, have promised to quickly move cases on appeal to the Court if Obama is elected and appoints liberals to the Court.

Quote:
----- Let me repeat these devastating numbers. 93% of professing Christians have never saw any one come to Jesus by their personal sharing. Now brother, where does the problem lie in this country? Do you want another 100 years so Christians can continue to not share the Gospel?

Your argument holds no water.

Really? No water? Brother, how many individuals have you lead to the Lord over the past few years? Are you a part of that 93%? Where did you even get that figure (93%)? Is that based upon a scientific poll, or did someone just say it? Even if that figure is accurate, is the problem with the freedoms and lack of persecution in our COUNTRY or in the complicity of those who call themselves Christians?

The fact remains that TRUE Christians are always sharing their faith! They may not always be producing a crop 30, 60 or 100 fold, but they share their faith nonetheless. You see, the problem with your statement is that it goes back to a broad generalization that we sometimes use. Yes, the Church is dead – but only in a generalized perspective that includes everyone who CLAIMS to be a believer and excludes those who really are believers. I guess that your qualm regarding all of this is not with TRUE believers, but with PROFESSING Christians. Just because a person “professes” to be a believer doesn’t make it so.

So if we could direct this toward those of us who truly know and love Christ...

Believers who choose to vote do not do so in order to take “dominion” of this world and its governments. Rather, we simply want to curtail the legislature and candidates from promoting those things that we might think are dangerous to our families, friends, neighbors, and fellow believers. Yes, the Gospel will be preached regardless of persecution or not. But I would prefer not. I would gladly give my life because I preached the Word – but I would prefer that I could live to preach another day. It’s not that I want to remain in this present world and my temporary country. To die is gain. But for the sake of those who have not heard, I prefer to stay around longer.

Quote:
----- Perhaps this particular stat has no bearing on your own walk with Jesus, but it does reflect upon the Church as a whole. No, in my opinion, its time for Christians to be completely sold out to Jesus and Him alone and look for all of their answers from Him and Him alone. My prayer, and many on this forum’s prayers is, that God would revive His people. That He would open their eyes to their true state.

Amen!

Quote:
----- That if there is darkness in the land, its because someone turned the light down.

Or perhaps those who have the light have refused to shine it everywhere (such as in the voting booth)? Have many believers hidden their light? Have we hidden it away from the candidates who make decisions that affects 300 Million in this country alone?

Quote:
----- He says that "If my people who are called by my name would humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways, then He would hear from heaven and heal their land." You see where the onus is on Chris? Not on the wicked world. Not on how bad the secular people are, we already know that, the onus and the focus is on the poor state of the Church.

Actually, brother, that quote was directed at the people of God – the NATION OF ISRAEL. But yes, it can be extended to believers today. But the point is that the true Church humbles themselves and pray. This isn’t a Scripture that precludes voting; rather, it shows the preeminence and importance of prayer in a dark world.

Quote:
----- Look at the stats from the Welsh revival. When you look at the court records, you will see a dramatic drop in the crime rate because large amounts of people were coming to Christ. Bars were closing down. It effected all of society. That is what America needs today brother, that and that alone. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God ...and all these things shall be added unto you."

Amen! And like I said before, the Welsh Revival (and the two earlier Great Awakenings) happened in places relatively void of true persecution or legislated ungodliness. Benjamin Franklin, in his autobiography, wrote about the effects of George Whitefield. He described how you knew that Whitefield had been through town due to the bars closing down, gambling ceasing and the public singing of hymns by individuals walking throughout the town. He also related how Whitefield should be regarded as one of our founding fathers, because he exerted so much influence on those who help design the nation. If I remember correctly, Whitefield preached to over 2/3 of the men who participated in the Continental Congress

But I agree with you: Prayer is the most important thing. We need to know God. Whether we choose to vote, we need to know and seek the face of our Maker and Divine Friend!

:)

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/10/9 18:38

Quote:
-----if I was given the choice, I would rather live in a country where there was persecution and a Church that was alive, than in country where there was no persecution and the Church was asleep or luke-warm.

Appolus, I understand your heart for purity in the church, one that is alive and not lukewarm. May I be so bold as to suggest that most people on SI would agree with this?

But to live where there is persecution??? Brother, do you know what life looks like where the rubber meets the road where this is the norm? History tells us that life under persecution is hard, very difficult for the mothers and children. Many males are rounded up, carried off to prison or, if lucky, killed. The women and children are left to fend for themselves and just to survive becomes a severe struggle - the acquisition of food becomes difficult, even to the point of hunger stalking them. Housing - they may be evicted from their homes and where do they go? and the husband may either be dead or languishing in a prison with a roof over his head and a couple meals a day, even if it is gruel with a rotten potato thrown in. Or, the children may be removed from the home and placed in state care. I, for one, do not ever wish to live in a situation like this nor do I wish it on my daughters-in-law and my grandchildren. To wish persecution is like inviting temptation, I MHO: "lead us not into temptation". Matthew 6:13.

Corrie ten Boom used to say the people who withstood imprisonment the best were the singles. The marrieds with spouses and children outside had severe problems coping. And I can well understand this.

Just my thoughts on this issue....

ginnyrose

Re:, on: 2008/10/9 18:40

To be honest Chris, I know less about where you are coming from after your last post than I did before.

1. The stats are from Barna, commonly quoted by most ministers in America.
2. The state of the world when the great awakenings happened were dire. In England it was reckoned that famous preachers like Whitfield and the Wesley brothers would help shape a nation away from the bloody revolution that came to France. In America, prior to the great awakenings, the moral climate was said to be at an all time low. This was the generation that preceded the puritans. Strangely enough, the great awakenings helped the end on the theocracy's that existed in Virginian and North Carolina.

The Welsh revival came at a time of dreadful poverty in the mines of Wales and much of the workforce had been taken over with socialism and dreams of communism. Indeed, conditions in Britain were more ripe for a Communist revolution than they were in Russia. So we see that revival always comes at a time of great need. And God has blessed both America and Britain with revivals that came in time to stop moral decline and outright revolution.

3. There is a Church of America, broadly defined. At it is no different that the Church's described in the book of Revelation.
4. I have been blessed to see souls saved by the testimony of Christ in my life.

Chris, you seem to want to say that things are not so bad. You say that I generalize. Yet you go on and say

"Believers who choose to vote do not do so in order to take "dominion" of this world and its governments. Rather, we simply want to curtail the legislature and candidates from promoting those things that we might think are dangerous to our families, friends, neighbors, and fellow believers."

Are you speaking for all believers? Given your previous logic, how can you possibly generalize like that?

So, let me make a few statements that perhaps we can simply agree or disagree on, and of course there is nothing wrong with that.

If I am reading you right, you are saying, that generally, overall the state of genuine believers is fine? That point we have a genuine disagreement.

You also believe that it will not take some kind of persecution or judgment from God to wake up, not only His own people, but the world in general. To that point we also have a disagreement.

You believe that it is a Godly act to vote and by voting we are helping the morality of the country by legislation that cuts back on crime and abortion. On that we also disagree.

You believe that in conjunction with praying, we also have to vote and exercise "rights," that we have in order to further God's plans and morality here in this country. On this we also disagree.

These are all legitimate disagreements and good men should be able to agree to disagree. If I have mistated your positions in my summary points, please feel free to correct me brother. If not, perhaps we have exhausted our positions.

On this we can agree I am sure. Our future lies in His hands and we must trust in Him totally. And even although you do not want persecution or judgment to come upon the land, even if it does, we are safe and secure in the arms of our Saviour.....brother Frank

Re:, on: 2008/10/9 19:42

Hi Ginnyrose...I think that you are correct when you say that many on SI are feverently praying for the Church to awake from its slumbers. I would count myself in these numbers. Many on SI have rightly identified the state of the Church and it breaks their hearts and they are praying to see that change. Many also know that prayer is the key to revival. I think of the two old ladies of the Isle of Lewis in my home country who prayed and God rewarded their prayers with revival. Nothing happens without prayer. It cannot be understated.

As to persecution, I understand where you are coming from ginnyrose, especially from a mothers standpoint. Yet, as you probably know, we are called to be witnesses. This is from the Greek word Martus meaning Martyr. And while we have lived in a time where we, at least in the West, have not been called to be martyr's or to suffer any serious persecution, this has not been the typical story down through the centuries. Fox's Book of Martyr's is an excellent read. Know this Ginnyrose, if the Lord called you and I to this road, then He would enable us.brother Frank

Re: - posted by cchhhrrriiiss (), on: 2008/10/9 19:50

Hi Brother Appolus...

I don't know why. I thought that I was making myself clearer and to the point.

I agree with Ginnyrose. I do NOT want my wife -- or future children -- to suffer simply for sharing their faith. Of course, I hope that they would choose to suffer rather than compromise their faith. But I would prefer that they were able to share their faith without risking life or limb.

Brother, as "bad" as you want to make the times of the Great Awakening or Welsh Revival, I can guarantee that the morality of the day was so much better than today! Women were not encouraged to murder their unborn children. Children were not "cool" for being rebellious. People actually wore clothing when they went outside. Those who publicly cursed were not seen as "normal." Homosexuality was considered what it really is -- abnormal sexual lust. The change happened when the government began to legislate what was taught in the schools. How did a government of the people, for the people and by the people -- who are accountable to the people -- how did they obtain such power? Perhaps the Church decided to stay home and let history roll without their voice? Or perhaps the only voice came from the loud career ministers who make a living from preaching what they think is truth?

As far as generalities are concerned, I think that I was referring to those of us who truly know God but choose to vote. I thought that I made it clear within the context of my post. But to claim that the Church is dead: Both you and I are part of

the Church in America. Neither of us is "dead." So it is difficult to listen to generalizations of the entire Church being dead when we are not.

Quote:
-----If I am reading you right, you are saying, that generally, overall the state of genuine believers is fine? That point we have a genuine disagreement.

First of all, I think that there is a problem when you are "reading me" at all. Sometimes we just read too much the words that aren't really there. But to answer your question, I think that you should simply refer to what I said when I posted. The TRUE CHURCH is alive and well. Those who know the Lord, fellowship with the Lord, and heartily seek the Lord -- that is the "Church" as far as I understand it. This is a far cry from what you called those who "profess Christianity." As we know, there are many professors of the faith and only a remnant that has actually met the Lord. As I stated in my example, Jesus was exceedingly specific to the local Churches of Asia in the second and third chapters of Revelation. He did not make generalizations for the entire Church of Asia. Why? Because the Church at Laodicea was not like the Church at Philadelphia. The Church at Sardis was not like the Church at Ephesus. Today, the Church that I attended in Texas is quite different than the Churches that I have visited in the San Francisco Bay area. The true Church is quite alive. Should we be generalized with those who are not?

Brother, I certainly understand what you are saying. The organized and professing "Church" in the West does not appear to be as a Bride who has "made herself ready" for her Groom. But it almost seems as though you think that persecution is the cure all for that. How could that be? The cure all is that people would love Jesus enough to seek Him and know Him. Persecution or no persecution -- we all need to thirst after the one true Living God! I would not invite or welcome (or by my lack of participation, hasten) persecution. But I would certainly continue to serve God through it. This hunger is what is needed to wake the people up. But the cause of revival is NOT persecution. It is a deep hunger to know and fellowship with the Living God. I think that we can agree on that.

Quote:
-----You believe that it is a Godly act to vote and by voting we are helping the morality of the country by legislation that cuts back on crime and abortion. On that we also disagree.

I think that this is an example of reading too much between the lines again. I didn't say that it was a Godly act to vote. However, I KNOW that voting can curb the legislative promotion of certain things like abortion, homosexual marriage and slavery. Why? Because that is how they are introduced and become law in the first place! In addition, if a man is not in power (as a result of the plurality of votes), then he can't pursue his agenda. Abortion became legal in this nation only 35 years ago after liberal activist judges were appointed to the Supreme Court (who validated the rights of certain liberal state legislators who pushed that "right" in their states).

Quote:
-----You believe that in conjunction with praying, we also have to vote and exercise "rights," that we have in order to further God's plans and morality here in this country. On this we also disagree.

Did I say that? No. I didn't say we HAVE to vote. I initially said that it is not enough to pray for the hungry: We must feed them. It is not enough to pray for the naked: We must clothe them. One way to help curb the continued slaughter of unborn babies is to vote. For instance, there is a measure in South Dakota this year that might effectively end abortion in the state! It would almost certainly be appealed to higher courts, and would likely end up in the Supreme Court. Do we want another liberal justice to be stacked on the court in favor of a woman's "right" to murder her unborn baby? In this instance, our voting does make a difference. What I am saying is that we should pray, but we can also vote. We can pray, but we can also speak out against abortion. Sadly, most of the preaching on abortion happens inside of the walls of a Church building. Speaking of Whitefield, he preached on a box...outside...to the saved and unsaved alike. Men like Finney...and Wilberforce...preached against slavery while it was still legal.

Quote:
-----These are all legitimate disagreements and good men should be able to agree to disagree. If I have mistated your positions in my summary points, please feel free to correct me brother. If not, perhaps we have exhausted our positions.

I hope that I have clarified my position so that it is not as easily misunderstood. I am not saying that men MUST vote. I am just saying that they CAN vote, and that voting CAN make a difference. In Texas, our town voted to prevent public billboards near schools from promoting objectionable movies, books or television shows (like the nude "Cleopatra" movie image that Ray Comfort climbed up and covered with a blanket). You know what? Those things are now prohibited from being seen on billboards and posters by schoolchildren. In Texas, the state voted to allow the mention of Creation in the classroom. In fact, Texas even allows the Bible to be taught as an elective! Why? People voted. They voted for their school boards, mayors and legislators. People voted to prohibit the state or activist judges from endorsing unions between homosexuals to be called "marriage." People voted to prohibit the government from making laws that dictate what preachers can preach (for instance, that homosexuality is immoral). People voted to prohibit the state from forbidding pare

nts to homeschool their children. People voted to allow parents the right to opt their children out of sex education classes. People voted to prohibit the state from implementing a state income tax. Do you see the difference that can be made by voting? It isn't endorsing the state or the politician. It is simply having a say in what goes on in your community, neighborhood or state.

Quote:
-----On this we can agree I am sure. Our future lies in His hands and we must trust in Him totally. And even although you do not want persecution or judgment to come upon the land, even if it does, we are safe and secure in the arms of our Saviour.....brother Frank

Amen to that, brother!

:)

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/10/9 20:01

Thanks, Frank for your reply.

I know the LORD would give one enabling grace to endure, but I cringe...

ginnyrose

Re:, on: 2008/10/9 20:55

Hi Ginnyrose...I appreciate your honesty. Its certainly worth a cringe.

Brother Chris.....Just one clarification, I never said the Church was dead. The Scriptures tell me that the gates of hell shall not prevail against her. I believe that we have exhausted our positions. You seem to live in a very moral town and that seems to have, by your own word, been achieved by voting.

Victorian England was one of the most moral places in the world, not sure how that helps the eternal soul?.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/10/10 14:51

Ok...I see this post brought out peoples opinions.

appolus...You say you want persecution...I don't think you know what you are talking about! My family has worked with the Russian Persecuted Church for over 10 years, and yes the church was strong while it was being persecuted, but now...oh my, now you look at the Russian Church, and you won't see strong christians any more. They have freedom, and they are not used to it, Fathers no longer are the head of their home, the mothers are, they got used to the father being gone and now when they are back...!! No, we don't want persecution, we want revival!! And that is what this prayer request is all about!!

Re:, on: 2008/10/10 15:17

I agree... it's naive and foolish for someone to say that they want persecution. It's easy to sit here in America, where we as Christians have known no persecution, to say something like that.

Martyrs did not want to be martyred. Our persecuted brethren abroad dont want to be persecuted. They endure it, but they dont want it. Thats why they **beg** us to pray for them... and 99% of Christians in this country just ignore them. We think we're persecuted if someone refuses to take a tract (speaking of the 5% of us believers who even witness!).

If you want persecution then go to Vietnam and proclaim Christ loudly in the street. You'll find out what persecution is.

I recommend before you spout off about how you want persecution that you investigate for yourself what the church is going thru in other parts of the world. It's spiritually ignorant and arrogant to say "bring it on".

Krispy

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/10/10 15:30

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks, be made for all men;

1 Timothy 2:2 For kings, and all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1Timothy 2:1,2).

Notice Vs. 2 that one of the reasons why we are to pray for those in authority is so that we might live a quiet and peaceable life. The true disciple of Jesus will suffer persecution, but it is not something to be sought after, it will come to all those that live godly in Christ Jesus.

Mike

Re:, on: 2008/10/10 15:46

Hi Krispy...shootin of from the hip again I see? Who said that they wanted persecution? Seems like the same people like to put words in peoples mouths. How about reading a post with charity and responding with truth? sheesh

Re:, on: 2008/10/10 15:48

JRUTH...why would you deliberately put words in my mouth that I did not say. How about an actual quote and then a response to the quote??? brother Frank

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/10/10 17:56

Quote:

-----As to persecution

Frank, after reading your response to mine, my memory was drawn to Richard Wurmbbrand's talk on "How to Form an Underground Church." I actually found the cassette tapes and listened to some of it this morning. Then I thought that perhaps I should ask for your mailing address and I will send you a copy. Then I wondered if perhaps they might not be online somewhere. After a brief search I found an abbreviated transcript of it. Here is the link to part #1:
<http://members.cox.net/wurmbbrand/prepare.html>

This site fails to detail the story of a certain torture inflicted by the Communists upon prisoners. They have refined it to a nasty art, if you please. Wurmbbrand tells us how they have caused a prisoner to eat his feces and urine. Then gave him something that will cause him to vomit it up and then will force you to eat it again. Brother Frank, this is unmitigated evil, one that I wonder who can stand? Obviously, some have, but brother Frank - to desire it??? Sir, the males I know are much more sensitive to pain than I am, a female. Some will say males in comparisons tend to be cry-babies (generally speaking) in their sensitivities to pain. Oh my, where was I going with this?

Frank, scripture tells us God will chastise his people. "Whomsoever the LORD loveth he chastens". Perhaps we are calling people Christians that in reality are not? and we are allowing them to influence us in undue ways? Maybe this is the problem? We are not discerning enough because of our own blindness or willingness to compromise? We are too tolerant. And whose fault is that? Is it not the love for entertainment? for the love of wanting to be approved by men instead of God? Yes, I am sure you will agree, of that I have no doubt.

About chastening: have you not seen or heard of people who have been chastened by debilitating infirmities? or afflictions? Is this not a modern form of exposing who the sheep and goats are? For some afflictions will make them angry with God and others will draw near to God. Can we not learn from this? I am sure you will agree.

But will persecution separate the sheep from the goats so the church will be free from the goats' influence? Seems to me this would be a tad bit optimistic. If I know the devil even he will produce a counterfeit in an attempt to fool God's people.

The short of the long is I am not sure there is a sure fire method of cleansing apart from Jesus second return.

Blessings,

ginnyrose

Re:, on: 2008/10/10 18:40

Dear Ginnyrose.....

Here is the summation of what I said about persecution.....the actual quote

"if I was given the choice, I would rather live in a country where there was persecution and a Church that was alive, than in a country where there was no persecution and the Church was asleep or luke-warm. We know what Jesus says about being lukewarm. Perhaps you do not believe that the Church in America is lukewarm? If that is the case, then we have a genuine difference of opinion."

My point was not persecution, but rather the state of the Church. For anyone to say that I said anything else is simply dishonest. Can I suggest that people scroll back and just read what I said and where I was coming from. To deliberately cast a brother in a false light is not a Godly thing to do. I know that you are not guilty of this Ginnyrose and I appreciate the time that you took to find that tape for me which I will listen to..... brother Frank

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/10/10 19:25

I was persecuted by a religious group of people - what they did to me was done out of greed and they did it in the name of God - using the state to enforce their agenda.

At the time, I was not a part of the church but I trusted in God in the best way that I knew. In looking back, I have come to see that it is the best thing that ever happened to me. It truly was a cleansing process - a shaking that brought everything to the surface - a letting go of everything that I thought was important so that I could finally see the One that surpasses all.

I would not wish this upon anyone - but if this is what is required to save perishing souls from the fires of hell - then let it be so.

I can testify that throughout the process my Lord has been faithful and true - never allowing more than I could take - firmly but gently peeling away the foolish things that I was holding onto so that finally I could see the Truth that is found in Him.

Re: - posted by JoanM, on: 2008/10/10 23:07

The True Women Conference this day was filled with the testimony of suffering and redemption (God's view) that you (Edit: HeartSong) share here. Obedience through what we suffer in small and great ways, changed into the same image. I love His way of giving His Truth everywhere.

Re:, on: 2008/10/11 0:47

Amen Joan and amen to heartsong. He has been tried in the furnace and was not consumed.....BROTHER FRANK

Re: - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/10/11 9:06

appolus, what did you mean by this? Did I read into it, to make it say something it didn't? If so I am very sorry!!

Quote:
-----Chris, if I was given the choice, I would rather live in a country where there was persecution and a Church that was alive, than in a country where there was no persecution and the Church was asleep or luke-warm.

Re:, on: 2008/10/11 11:30

Hi JRUTH...I appreciate your reply sister. I do not think it would be wise to explain the quote any further. I think the meaning is plain enough sister. Those who know me, and know where I am coming from, know what I meant. They have indicated this by pm and I so appreciate that.

The Lord is good and His desire is for unity amongst brother and sisters. So, in a Spirit of love and a desire to think more highly of each other and esteem one another, I believe that we should lay it to rest. Here is what I know you and I would agree on. The Lord is high and lifted up and the train of His robe fills the temple. He loves His people and He knows the schemes of the enemy that would seek to divide and conquer. So Lord, I just pray right now for all my brothers and sisters on SI. I pray that we would be an example of love and forgiveness and beauty and unity. That we would never look through a dark eye but see the beauty and the best in each of us. And that you would be exalted and that each thread would be a witness to any passerby. In the name of Jesus.....brother Frank

Re: Pray - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/10/11 15:02

Saints,

I go back to the first thing I said on here, and say again Pray for America!! We need not argue about that, we know America is in trouble, and we as Christians better get serious and start praying!!

Re: PRAY for America - posted by Choo, on: 2008/10/17 8:34

I pray and will continue to pray earnestly for our beloved nation, first for a move of God's mighty spirit upon us, granting such a mighty spiritual awakening to so many that are lost and dying and so causing the moral fiber of this nation to be turned around. Of course our trust is in the Lord, He alone can deliver this nation, we know no elected official has the power to do it, but its important that we do what we can not to allow him to further bring our homeland into further moral decay. We still have to live here. If we remain indifferent our freedoms will be taken away from us, our rights to speak freely from the pulpits, to homeschool our children if we so chose, what is broadcasted on christian radio will be restricted, little innocent babies will continue to be killed daily, to name a few. Much harm came to other nations in history when their citizens remained silent. We have a God given responsibility to pray for our nation and be a good and involved citizen. Please, stop this back and forth and do as the Lord commands us...PRAY. Is there not a cause?!

Re: PRAY for America - posted by LoveGodsWay2, on: 2008/10/17 10:13

My wife & I are praying & fasting for America.

We desire for God to turn the hearts of our people (USA) back to Him.

He may or may not use judgement to do this in America.

I could be incorrect in saying this:

There was only one prophet who wanted God to bring judgement and that was Jonah. God wanted mercy. But also He wanted their hearts and the Lord got both!

May the Lord get to show mercy to America & may He get the hearts of the people too!