



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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## GOD AND GOVERNORS



WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON OUR MINDS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REMEMBER OUR CHRISTIAN OBLIGATIONS TO THOSE WHO GOVERN US . . . NO MATTER THEIR POLITICAL PARTY. ROMANS 13:1 REQUIRES THAT "EVERY PERSON IS TO BE IN SUBJECTION TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES" | TIMOTHY 2: 1-2 REMINDS US ". . . THAT ENTREATIES AND PRAYERS, PETITIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS, BE MADE ON BEHALF OF ALL

MEN, FOR KINGS AND ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY, SO THAT WE MAY LEAD A TRANQUIL AND QUIET LIFE IN ALL GODLINESS AND DIGNITY."

LIKewise PETER REMINDS US, "SUBMIT YOURSELVES FOR THE LORD'S SAKE TO EVERY HUMAN INSTITUTION, WHETHER TO A KING AS THE ONE IN AUTHORITY, OR TO GOVERNORS AS SENT BY HIM FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF EVILDOERS AND THE PRAISE OF THOSE WHO DO RIGHT. FOR SUCH IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT BY DOING RIGHT YOU MAY SILENCE THE IGNORANCE OF FOOLISH MEN. (1 PETER 2: 13-15). PAUL AND PETER WERE NOT REFERRING TO GOOD AND GODLY RULERS, THEY WERE PAGANS THAT PROMOTED WICKED AND OFTEN ANTI-CHRISTIAN POLICIES WE HONOR AND OBEY GOD WHEN WE SUBMIT AND PRAY FOR THOSE HE PLACES OVER US . . . NO MATTER THEIR POLITICAL PARTY.

WE DARE NOT FORGET THAT THROUGHOUT BIBLICAL HISTORY MANY FAMOUS SAINTS WORKED IN THE ADMINISTRATIONS OF PAGAN KINGS. JOSEPH WORKED AS VICE REGENT WITH AN EGYPTIAN PHARAOH (GENESIS 41:38-40) AND NEHEMIAH WAS THE CUPBEARER FOR THE BABYLONIAN KING ARTAXERXES (NEHEMIAH 1: 11). DANIEL WAS A HIGH-LEVEL COUNSELOR TO KINGS NEBUCHADNEZZAR, BELSHAZZAR, DARIUS, AND CYRUS (DANIEL 1-6). AND DON'T FORGET THAT ESTHER WAS MARRIED TO KING AHASUERUS (ESTHER 2: 17) AND HER UNCLE MORDECAI SAVED THAT KING'S LIFE (ESTHER 2:21-23). BECAUSE OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS GOD'S PEOPLE WERE OFTEN PROTECTED AND PROVIDED FOR EVEN THOUGH THE LEADERS WERE NOT FOLLOWERS OF JEHOVAH.

REMEMBER TOO THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPECTFUL INTERACTIONS WITH KINGS AND RULERS, FOLLOWERS OF GOD WERE ABLE TO WITNESS ABOUT GOD IN MANY THRONE ROOMS. THE PROPHET ELIJAH CONFRONTED KING AHAB WHO HAD SOLD HIMSELF TO DO EVIL (1 KINGS 21:20) AND HE REPENTED (1 KINGS 21:27). DANIEL REVEALED TO KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, "THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN WHO REVEALS MYSTERIES." (DANIEL 2:28). THE APOSTLE PAUL POLITELY INTERACTED WITH KING AGRIPPA AND HIS WIFE (ACTS 26) TO THE POINT THAT THE KING WAS NEARLY READY TO ACCEPT CHRIST. (ACTS 26:27-29).

REMEMBER: WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE HONOR THOSE THAT HE'S GIVEN TO GOVERN US.

### **LOOKING UP!**

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE