

I Timothy 2:1-2 – “I exhort...that supplications, prayers, and intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority...”

#### PRAYER FOR ALL MEN

“All” means entire, the total, the whole, everyone without exception. I am amazed at our eagerness to make excuses for not praying for all people. I am surprised with myself. Recently on face book a pastor friend was criticized for praying for the President of the United States. Because someone disagreed with the president’s liberal politics, he responded critically at my friend’s request. I agreed with my friend, yet I immediately felt a rebuke for failing to pray as I should for elected officers I disagree with. I have problems with the president myself. However, my difficulties with one’s politics is no excuse for my not praying for him. Jesus said, “love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and ‘pray’ for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). Nero was Caesar at that time. He ordered the beheading of Paul. He set the city of Rome on fire and blamed it on the Christians. Why should we pray for our enemies? First, “that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life...” (v. 2). Second, “God our Savior... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (vs. 3-4). Pray for your leaders. If these reasons aren’t sufficient for you, then pray for your leaders, because Jesus said to.