



THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 9, 2022

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

Today

Weekly Bible Studies

Tuesdays on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

September 3, 7:30

Address and Contact

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Christ

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THOUGHTS ON LOVE AND PRAYER

Two commands that Christians might find difficult to obey are found in Matthew 5:43-44: *You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'* ⁴⁴ *But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,* ⁴⁵ *so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.* 1 Timothy 2:1-4 says, *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,* ² *for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.* ³ *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,* ⁴ *who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Both commands share similarities. Both involve the Christian acting on behalf of those who may not have his best interests in mind. In fact, the passage in Matthew involves actual enemies of the Christian. The passage in 1 Timothy involves those who have secular rule over Christians and whose laws may conflict with the laws of Christ and may even sanction those who persecute Christians.

Both passages call upon Christians to engage in two of the most Christ-like actions on behalf of those who would treat us the worst. We are commanded to love and pray for our enemies and we are to pray for "kings and all who are in high places." It is easy to love and pray for our brethren, our families, ourselves, the sick and injured. But our love and prayer ought not to neglect our enemies and those who rule over us. Luke 6:27-29 combines love and prayer for our enemies this way: *But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.* ²⁹ *To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic^[a] either.* Loving, doing good, blessing, and praying are all acts of holiness and righteousness. They are driven by the very best of motives, the desire to be like our Savior and King.

A third similarity between Matthew 5:43-44 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4 is the way in which Christians directly benefit from obeying God in these

Members Needing Our Prayers

The Lake family, The Powell family, Rick Small, Ralph Fox, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Joyce Bolton and family, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayers

Allison Walker, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons, Adam Fusco, Rachel and Sarah White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Debbie Lanphear, Veronica Bowman

To Our Guests

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areas. Yes, we are loving and praying and doing good for the benefit of our enemies, but we benefit as much, if not more so, than they. Matthew 5 says to love and pray for our enemies so that we may be sons of our Father. Our eternal inheritance is worth more than anything else, worth enough to love our enemies and pray for them so that we do not risk being disinherited. 1 Timothy states that praying for those who rule over us is done so that we may be good citizens, physically and spiritually: that we may lead *a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way*. This article was prompted by verses from Proverbs 29 (AV) and by the realization that I am often quick to criticize my enemies, including my government, and slow to pray for them. Here are the verses from Proverbs: (2) *When the righteous are in authority and become great, the people rejoice; But when the wicked man rules, the people groan and sigh.* (4) *The king establishes (stabilizes) the land by justice, But a man who takes bribes overthrows it.* (7-8) *the righteous man cares for the rights of the poor, but the wicked man has no interest in such knowledge. Scoffers set a city afire [by stirring up trouble], But wise men turn away anger [and restore order with their good judgment].*

Whenever we choose to do things God's way there are great benefits available to all. John Thompson

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

