

## Praying for the Kingdom

The Scriptures show a preference for capitalism vs. socialism (II Thessalonians 3:10-12) and personal freedom vs. government control (Luke 4:18; Exodus 20:1). In his books *Politics According to the Bible* and *Christian Ethics*, Dr. Wayne Grudem shows the dangers of political liberalism. When the government is not hostile to Christians, we can peacefully proclaim the truth of God's Word, and the salvation that is offered to all thru Christ (I Timothy 2:1-6).

The closer we get to the return of Christ, the more our world will resemble the days of Noah and Lot (Luke 17:26-35). Twice in the future, the saved will be separated from the lost - at the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:16-17) and again at the end of the tribulation period (Luke 17:34-35). Now is the time to reach the lost and we must begin with prayer!

### Four Ways to Pray for the Spiritually Lost:

#### 1. Pray for God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Love) to Reign

- a. *"Our Father who art in heaven..." Matthew 6:9.* By saying "our" Jesus taught that any person can have the same relationship with God the Father that he has. Jesus likely used the Aramaic word 'Abba' for 'Father'. This is the word a child would use with their father, like our 'Daddy'. A close, intimate relationship with our Creator is possible for each of us to enjoy!
- b. Although only the Father knows who are truly his, Jesus said, *"By their fruit you will recognize them...every good tree bears good fruit and every bad tree bears bad fruit."* Matthew 7:16.
- c. Three fruit distinguish true believers – the fruit of character or the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23); the fruit of creed or what a person believes about Jesus and his Word (Matthew 12:34); and the fruit of converts or the impact we have on others (Matthew 23:15).

#### 2. Pray for God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Goodness) to Reign

- a. *"...hallowed be thy name."* Matthew 6:9. 'Hallowed' is an old English word meaning "to be set apart" or "to be made holy". God is good through and through, not tainted by evil of any kind. The life of Christ is filled with real fun and pure joy (Luke 7:34). Real goodness and purity go hand in hand with real happiness and joy! Heaven will be anything but boring!

#### 3. Pray for God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Greatness) to Reign

- a. *"Thy kingdom come..." Matthew 6:10.* Pray for the majesty, glory, and wonder of God's kingdom to reign over all the earth! When we arrive in heaven, we will experience for the first time the true glory of God's eternal kingdom. You don't want to miss it, nor do you want any of your friends or family members to miss it!

**4. Pray for God's \_\_\_\_\_(Peace) to Reign**

- a. *"Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10. "The Lord...is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9.* Our God is a reconciler, sending Jesus to earth to build a bridge for us to get back to God.
- b. In heaven we will live 24-7 under the fatherhood of God and in the brotherhood of man. In heaven your sin nature will be eradicated. Your heart's desire will be to serve God and others all the time. And it won't be boring!
- c. Read *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn to whet your appetite for heaven's shores! *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" II Corinthians 5:17.* In heaven, we will have the final victory over four menacing enemies we battle on earth: sin, Satan, death, and hell!

**There will undoubtedly be some dark days ahead for God's people. *"All who are godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."* II Timothy 3:12. The current attacks against Pastor John MacArthur and Grace Community Church are likely a harbinger of what is to come.**

**But...the greatest spiritual awakening the earth will ever experience still lies in the future (Revelation 7:9-17). God does his best work when the heat gets turned up. So, don't despair! If you stay faithful to Jesus, you will see God working in miraculous ways culminating with the ride in the clouds to your heavenly home!**