

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”

1 COR. 1:18 NKJV



**Berean Bible Church**

Service of  
**Worship & Communion**

Sunday, 6 November, 2016

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Sunday School 9:30am  
Morning Worship - 10:40am | Evening Service - 6:00pm  
Midweek Service (Wednesday) - 7:30pm  
Hothersal Turning, St. Michael | Rev. Ronald Trotman - Pastor  
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**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# The Lord Governs the Nations

**Psalm 67:4** Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!  
For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on earth.



On our 50th Anniversary of independence, it is good for us to be reminded of the scripture's instruction on leadership and our responsibility as citizens and Christians. The Bible has much to say on this topic and as we go through these passages keep in mind that many of them were written during the time when the governing authorities were very hostile toward Christianity. The Lord has given us instructions and He will honour those who honour His word.

## **Power belongs to God**

The first principle to understand on this topic is that power belongs to God alone. Mankind thinks that he is the one who plans his own destiny but the Bible says that even though we may plan our own way, our steps are directed by the Lord (Proverbs 16:9). We also must realize that leaders and those in authority do not govern outside of God's will and they have no power to take our nation where God is not going. There are two important passages that explain this. First look at **Proverbs 21:1**

**The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.**

God has the power to turn leaders in the direction He chooses. Look at the plans of the leaders who crucified Jesus. The Jewish governors decided not to arrest Jesus during the feast day because they feared a riot and the Roman governor, Pilot wanted to let Jesus go with just a scourging. It was God's will that prevailed for the redemption of Jesus was to be accomplished on the feast of Passover for it was the fulfillment of what the Passover represented. In the end, the foreordained plan of God was established and man's plans were thwarted. During the time of judgment foretold in Revelation, this principle is also made clear. Look at **Revelation 17:17**

**"For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.**

The Bible says that God puts it in the hearts of the world's leaders to fulfill the purposes of God and the word God has spoken. It is not man who picks his leaders, but God who raises up leaders and orchestrates the events that raises them to power. Look also at **Daniel 2:20-21**

**20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.**

This was spoken to King Nebuchadnezzar who was the world leader of the nation of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar was called the servant of God by scripture and even though he was a pagan king, he was a tool in the hand of God. God raised him up to judge God's people who had departed from the Lord and had abandoned His word. God also foretold that the king would be lifted up with pride and then would be taken down for seven years to show that God was the one who has all power. After seven years of insanity, Nebuchadnezzar was restored and he testifies of God's power in **Daniel 4:34-35**

**34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored**

**Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"**

The king of Babylon began by looking over his kingdom and saying, "Look what I have done", but in the end he acknowledged that he was only a tool in the hand of the Lord and that it was God alone that raises men to power. The Lord raises up kings and rulers and the Lord brings them down. Psalm 62:11 says that power belongs to God. When Jesus stood before Pilot during His trial, the governor said, "Don't you know that I have the power to crucify or release You?" Jesus made it clear that Pilot would have no power over Him unless it was given to him from above. God raises up good leaders to bless a godly nation and God raises up ungodly leaders to judge His people who have turned from Him.

The Bible also reveals that even when a leader may be godly, the Lord can still use them to judge the nation. In 2 Samuel 24 the Bible says that God was angry at the sins of Israel and he moved King David to make a foolish decision in order to judge the nation. Think about this the next time our leaders seem to make such foolish decisions. God does not bless a nation because they have the right leaders in office, but rather God blesses a nation if His people are walking in godliness. Look at Proverbs 14:34

**Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.**

Political leaders cannot exalt a nation nor can they bring down a nation. God has the power to turn their hearts, overthrow their plans or bless their efforts. When you really dig down and look at the personal lives of our political leaders during the greatest times of our nation's glory, you find things that show human nature and not divine inspiration. God is not limited by our leader's religious views. Even when we had ungodly leaders and men of questionable character, the Lord still blessed the nation. It is not the leaders but the church that determines whether a nation is blessed. Let's look at a passage that is often quoted but rarely obeyed. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14

**"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

### **Pray for leadership**

Praying for authorities is a very important part of obeying the scriptures. I saw a news story where a religious leader was calling for people to pray that our new administration would fail. The Bible never permits us to pray against those we feel threatened by, but to pray for them. Rather than asking God to cause failure, perhaps we should pray that God will give wisdom and turn the hearts of our leaders toward the right way. Let us take a moment to look at 1 Timothy 2:1-2

**Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.**

Hopefully you can see that God directs our steps and He alone is the ruler of the nations. Our natural reaction is to try to intervene by our own power and efforts, but history has shown that this is unfruitful. We as Christians submit ourselves to God in obedience, pray for our nation and then we trust in God to fulfill His promise to heal our land. We can only stand in obedience and allow God to work through us and turn the hearts as He sees fit for He alone can bring virtue into our culture. If we are faithful to Him, the Lord will be faithful to keep His word. There is no other way. Set time aside regularly to lift up your nation, political leaders and spiritual leaders before God. Then trust the Lord to accomplish His will in His way. Pray for your leaders with all thanksgiving for if we honor God's word He will honor His promises.

# Order of Service

Ministry of Music – Choir

Invocation

Hymn 128

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 122

Hymn 155

Prayer

Notices – Offering

Ministry of Music – Choir

Hymn 140

Sermon – Rev. Ronald Trotman

Hymn 605

Distribution of Elements

Special Offering

2nd Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Ministry of Music – Bro. O. Thompson

Benediction – Choir



## PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- Reaching 50 years as a Nation under God
- Our Outreach Ministries
- Our Youth Department
- The Sick and Shut-ins
- The work of the Gideons, CEF, ISCF and The Bible Society
- The Persecuted Church
- His tender mercy & grace, new everyday.

## Join US this evening at 6pm for an engaging Bible Study



Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11 NIV

## November Birthdays

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|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 – Henderson Phillips | 12 – Sandra Piggott    | 22 – Sheila Gill     |
| 5 – Pearlita Seale     | 13 – Alfred Austin     | 24 – Jade King       |
| – Audrey Thomas        | 13 – Rickie Neblett    | 26 – Frances Patrick |
| 12 – Rhonda Ifill      | 15 – Darwin Brathwaite | 28 – Peter Thomas    |
|                        | 20 – Angela Bourne     |                      |

## Anniversaries

- 3 – Barry & Kim Ward      15 – Marion & Alfred Austin  
28 – William & Wendene Wells