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PREPARE THE WAY

The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

LUKE 3:5

Christians and Politics

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

- Matthew 5:14-16

“When the uncompromisingly righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.” – Proverbs 29:2

“Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.” – Jeremiah 29:7

“I conjure you, by all that is dear, by all that is honorable, by all that is sacred, not only that ye pray but that ye act.” – John Hancock

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.” – George Washington, 1796

“Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds...reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail, in exclusion of religious principle.” – George Washington, 1796

“The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were...the general principles of Christianity.” – John Adams, 1813

“O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand;
Between their loved home, and war's desolation;
Blessed with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land.
Praise the Power that hath made, and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto-‘In God is our trust!’
And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.”
– Star Spangled Banner (4th, and most important, stanza)

“Our destruction, if it come at all, will be from...the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from their carelessness and negligence.” – Daniel Webster, 1837

“If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces” – James Garfield, President

“Providence has given our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as privilege and interest of a Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers” – John Jay, Chief Justice U.S. Supreme Court

“If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws.” – Noah Webster

“When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty.” – Noah Webster

“The people who say they have not time to attend to politics are simply saying they are unfit to live in a free community” – Teddy Roosevelt, President

“Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature.” – James Garfield, President

“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote...that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.” – Samuel Adams

“The Church must take right ground in regard to politics. . . . [T]he time has come that Christians must vote for honest men and take consistent ground in politics. . . . Christians have been exceedingly guilty in this matter. But the time has come when they must act differently. . . . God cannot sustain this free and blessed country which we love and pray for unless the Church will take right ground. . . . It seems sometimes as if the foundations of the nation are becoming rotten, and Christians seem to act as if they think God does not see what they do in politics. But I tell you He does see it, and He will bless or curse this nation according to the course [Christians] take [in politics].” – Charles Finney, Evangelist during the 2nd Great Awakening (1800-1840)

“Gentleman may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace. The war is actually begun. Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!” – Patrick Henry, 1775

“All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” - Sir Edmund Burke

“[I] have one great political idea. . . . That idea is an old one. It is widely and generally assented to; nevertheless, it is very generally trampled upon and disregarded. The best expression of it, I have found in the Bible. It is in substance, “Righteousness exalteth a nation; sin is a reproach to any people” [Proverbs 14:34]. . . . This constitutes my politics – the negative and positive of my politics, and the whole of my politics. . . . I feel it my duty to do all in my power to infuse this idea into the public mind, that it may speedily be recognized and practiced upon by our people.” - The Rev. Frederick Douglass (1852)

“The Stars and Stripes – the old flag – will float . . . over all these States. . . . If the time ever comes when we shall go to pieces, it will . . . be . . . from inward corruption – from the disregard of right principles . . . from losing sight of the fact that “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but that sin is a reproach to any people” [Proverbs 14:34]. . . . [T]he secession of the Southern States in 1860 was a small matter compared with the secession of the Union itself from the great principles enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, in the Golden Rule, in the Ten Commandments, in the Sermon on the Mount. Unless we hold, and hold firmly to these great fundamental principles of righteousness, . . . our Union . . . will be “only a covenant with death and an agreement with hell.” If it continues to exist, it will be a curse and not a blessing.”
- The Rev. Francis Grimke (1909)

“First of all, then, I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that [outwardly] we may pass a quiet and undisturbed life [and inwardly] a peaceable one in all godliness and reverence and seriousness in every way. For such [praying] is good and right, and [it is] pleasing and acceptable to God our Savior, Who wishes all men to be saved and [increasingly] to perceive and recognize and discern and know precisely and correctly the [divine] Truth. For there [is only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”

- 1 Timothy 2:1-5