

## ***PRAY FOR PEACE***

After some opening comments in I Timothy 1, Paul begins with an interesting plan, “First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity,” (I Timothy 2:1,2 NASB).

“Kings and all who are in authority” have a great influence on tranquility in our world. As citizens of our nation and of God’s kingdom, we desire a “tranquil and quiet life” and are instructed to pray for such. We all want peace, here and abroad. We all desire resolution to conflicts, military and domestic.

Question: How much time have you spent in “entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings” in recent weeks? God, Himself, is ***urging*** us through Paul’s pen. “Urge” is a form of the well-known Greek word “*parakaleo*” meaning to urge, exhort, entreat, comfort, encourage, appeal, beseech or beg. God is not merely ***inviting*** us to ***ask*** Him, He is ***beseeking*** us to ***beg*** Him for peace!

War is not and never has been a glorious affair. Yes, victories are wonderful, but mainly because it means that the horrors of war, tyranny, etc., are over. There is a grave difference between the way young men see *going to war* and the way front line battle veterans see *actually being in war*.

Peace is a blessing from God and war is a punishment from God (against one side or the other!). But war is always horrible, even when necessary... and sometimes it *is* necessary to arrest the progress of the violent.

Pray for peace, urgently. Pray for kings and all who are in authority. Pray for the warriors who so valiantly serve our country, as well as their families.

Ray Wallace