

Good morning! Someone once said, "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it." That's funny because everyone knows that you and I can't really do anything about the weather. Could the same be said for our government? How do you like the way our government is working? How do you like the way the 2016 Presidential race is shaping up? If you don't like it, what are you doing about it? Are you campaigning? Attending rallies or demonstrations? Arguing on Facebook? Does the Bible have anything to say about this? Yes! Let's take a few moments together this morning to consider what Paul has to say about our relationship with our government:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Many of us have become discouraged by the way our government works---or doesn't work. Like the weather, we all complain about it. Listen however, to what Derek Prince said in his book, Shaping History Through Prayer and Fasting: "Christians are not held responsible by God to criticize their government, but they are held responsible to pray for it. So long as they fail to pray, Christians have no right to criticize." What do you think of that? Today's passage is part of Paul's Pastoral Training Program in which Timothy is a student. Paul reminds Timothy that we have a responsibility to pray "for kings and all who are in high positions." Because Paul begins by saying, "First of all..." we know that this is a primary responsibility for us. Paul says the reason we should pray is so "that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." Evidently you and I can have influence through our prayers over the

kind of government we get. This morning let me ask you this question: do you pray for the government as often as you criticize it?