

Tea and Fasting

David Kubal

The Tea Party Movement is building up steam, no pun intended. It is being described in many ways, but the beauty of it is the true grassroots, non-party affiliated, and citizen-directed manner in which multitudes of Americans are standing up and saying, "This is enough!" We are experiencing a profound political moment—a perfect time to reflect upon America's first Tea Party.



Boston Tea Party, December 16, 1773

city of Boston in our Sister Colony of Massachusetts Bay, whose commerce and harbor are, on the first day of June next, to be stopped by an armed force, deem it highly necessary that the said *first day of June be set apart, by members of this House, as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer*, devoutly to implore the Divine interposition, for averting the heavy calamity which threatens

On May 10, 1773 the British Parliament passed the Tea Act. This tax was to provide a "bailout" for the British East India Company which had a monopoly on the tea trade in the British Isles. This company had been struggling over an extended period of time for a variety of reasons.

A primary issue was their contractual agreement requiring them to pay the British government 400,000 pounds of tea each year, as a "legal" bribe for the right to exercise their monopoly on the tea trade. This Tea Act came after a series of new taxes were forced on the colonists in the previous five years. Many colonists viewed the "tea tax" as the final straw. As the British government began collecting their taxes, a grassroots movement was set into motion which culminated in the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773.

The average American probably does not know that the Tea Party was actually a calm, civil event. A number of men quietly threw 342 cases of the British East India Company's tea off ship into the waters of Boston harbor. They disguised themselves as Native American Indians to protect their identity. No shots were fired and there was no violence, yet it was a "galvanizing" step in bringing unity among the colonists.

But there is another significant event that occurred *after* the passing of the Tea Act and the Boston Tea Party. You probably will not find it in a public school textbook. The Virginia House of Burgesses, on May 24, 1774, passed the following:

"This House, being deeply impressed with apprehension of the great dangers to be derived to British America from the hostile invasion of the

destruction to our civil rights and the evils of civil war, to give us one heart and mind... [in answer to prayer and fasting] that the minds of his Majesty and his Parliament, may be inspired from above with wisdom."

These Founding Fathers remind us of three important points: *First, government leaders were leaders who led in fasting and praying with humiliation.* They had a perspective that humbling themselves with fasting and engaging in corporate prayer can change things. They knew from church teaching and experience that humbling themselves before God and depriving themselves of food could shape history. *Second, government leaders saw that God's intervention could avert "heavy calamity."* At the foundation of their laws was a recognition of God's sovereign preeminence, authority and power. *Third, they fasted and prayed specifically for the King and Parliament to have wisdom from God.* It is interesting that they did not pray and fast to be removed from the tyranny of an unjust government, but rather they prayed for "all those in authority." There is a recognition of God's delegated government and sense of submission with this statement that is subtle, but should not go unnoticed.

This month, as the citizens of the United States pay federal income taxes, the proclamation from the House of Virginia cries out to Tea Party members and to all of us who have a mindset to fast and pray for "all in authority," that they would be "inspired from above with wisdom."

—Dave Kubal, IEA President / CEO

"Turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." —Joel 2:12

Uniting Believers in Effective Prayer and Fasting for America – Since 1973

FIRST FRIDAY

April 2

PRAYER FOCUS

REPENTANCE / MORAL ORDER

"The evil will bow before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." (Prov 14:19, 15:3) Read and prayerfully reflect upon Pages 2 and 3. Repent that we live in a time when many leaders and citizens "call evil good and good evil." (Is 5:20) Intercede that the Lord would convict of sin, work repentance, and restore biblical moral order. Offer thanksgiving that God has ordained that even Creation should demonstrate and "speak" of His divine order. (Rom 1:19-20) Intercede as the Lord leads from the prayer points at the close of each of the Ten Principles outlined on Page 3.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION 11TH CONGRESS

Affirm the supremacy of Christ over the Obama Administration and the second session of the 11th Congress, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon and military, all diplomats and U.S. embassies and consulates, and the 2.5 million federal workers. (Col 1:12-19, 2:15) Intercede for exposure and cleansing from corruption, bribery, and paganism, the occult and unconstitutional governance at all federal, state, and local levels. Intercede that the Lord will restore moral, constitutional leadership and raise up "bands of believers" in the White House, Congress, and the Supreme Court who will personally engage in corporate prayer and fasting. Intercede as the Lord leads for matters in the White House, Congress, and the Supreme Court. (Ps 94:20, 21)

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

Offer thanksgiving for the Mount Vernon Statement and public stand for America's founding principles made on February 17. (See Page 2) Offer thanksgiving for the nearly 40,000 leaders who have signed this historic declaration; pray for multitudes more. Intercede for a return to the "self-evident truths based on the laws of nature and nature's God" envisioned in 1776 by America's Founders. Intercede that the "limits" placed on government's powers by the Constitution be regarded. Intercede that the United States be preserved as a Constitutional Republic. (www.TheMountVernonStatement.com)

Pray weekly via
On Watch In Washington

www.ifapray.org/blog
www.twitter.com/IFAPray



The Mount Vernon Statement

Constitutional Conservatism: A Statement for the 21st Century

We recommit ourselves to the ideas of the American Founding. Through the Constitution, the Founders created an enduring framework of limited government based on the rule of law. They sought to secure national independence, provide for economic opportunity, establish true religious liberty and maintain a flourishing society of republican self-government.

These principles define us as a country and inspire us as a people. They are responsible for a prosperous, just nation unlike any other in the world. They are our highest achievements, serving not only as powerful beacons to all who strive for freedom and seek self-government, but as warnings to tyrants and despots everywhere.

Each one of these founding ideas is presently under sustained attack. In recent decades, America's principles have been undermined and redefined in our culture, our universities and our politics. The self-evident truths of 1776 have been supplanted by the notion that no such truths exist. The federal government today ignores the limits of the Constitution, which is increasingly dismissed as obsolete and irrelevant.

Some insist that America must change, cast off the old and put on the new. But where would this lead—forward or backward, up or down? Isn't this idea of change an empty promise or even a dangerous deception?

The change we urgently need, a change consistent with the American ideal, is not movement away from but toward our founding principles. At this important time, we need a restatement of Constitutional conservatism grounded in the priceless principle of ordered liberty articulated in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

The conservatism of the Declaration asserts self-evident truths based on the laws of nature and nature's God. It defends life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It traces authority to the consent of the governed. It recognizes man's self-interest but also his capacity for virtue.

The conservatism of the Constitution limits government's powers but ensures that government performs its proper job effectively. It refines popular will through the filter of representation. It provides checks and balances through the several branches of government and a federal republic.

A Constitutional conservatism unites all conservatives through the natural fusion provided by American principles. It reminds economic conservatives that morality is essential to limited government, social conservatives that unlimited government is a threat to moral self-government, and national security conservatives that energetic but responsible government is the key to America's safety and leadership role in the world.

A Constitutional conservatism based on first principles provides the framework for a consistent and meaningful policy agenda.

- It applies the principle of limited government based on the rule of law to every proposal.
- It honors the central place of individual liberty in American politics and life.
- It encourages free enterprise, the individual entrepreneur, and economic reforms grounded in market solutions.
- It supports America's national interest in advancing freedom and opposing tyranny in the world and prudently considers what we can and should do to that end.
- It informs conservatism's firm defense of family, neighborhood, community, and faith.

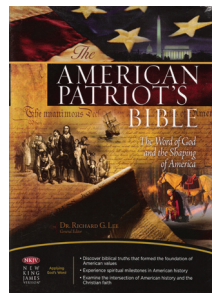
If we are to succeed in the critical political and policy battles ahead, we must be certain of our purpose. We must begin by retaking and resolutely defending the high ground of America's founding principles.

—February 17, 2010 www.TheMountVernonStatement.com

AMERICAN PATRIOT'S BIBLE

The Word of God and the Shaping of America
 Dr. Richard G. Lee, General Editor

An inspiring and invaluable resource! Dr. Richard G. Lee, Founding Pastor of First Redeemer Church in Atlanta, has skillfully compiled 48 full-color insert pages carefully documenting America's Judeo-Christian heritage. This 1,632 page New King James Version of the Bible also includes additional articles, illustrations, maps, index, and concordance. When ordering indicate whether you desire a leather-bound edition, IFA special \$37.99 + \$4.25 media shipping, or hardback edition, IFA special \$27.99 + \$4.25 media shipping. A paperback edition will become available in May. Order from IFA Fulfillment Center, c/o The Christian Shoppe, PO Box 1058, Purcellville, VA 20134. **Credit Card orders toll-free 888-349-4446 or via www.ifaresources.com.**



RESISTING EVIL IN THE GAP

Gary Bergel

"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:19)

The above teaching by Jesus pictures and fulfills the Old Testament pattern of elders ruling in the gates of biblical cities. Convening in rooms literally above or near the gates of entrance and exit from walled cities, the elders would observe, receive reports from watchmen and officers, deliberate, debate, study history and sacred texts, pray, and seek wisdom, counsel, and even prophetic input. They would then "bind and loose." They would "forbid" certain parties, commodities, and practices from entering and/or being established in a city, or they would "permit" and sanction such influences and enterprises. Laws were set in place to govern such rulings.

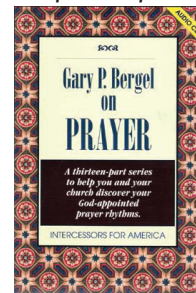
This is a pattern of how righteous government should be functioning today—binding and loosing, forbidding the evil and permitting the good. Much leadership today is corrupt; the Lord is looking for even one leader or for righteous ones among the people to stand before Him, pleading for mercy and "resisting" evil. (Ezekiel 22:30)

While a legal and lasting binding of principalities and powers must be done carefully and corporately under authority, each individual believer can and should pray prayers to "resist the devil." After reflection and confession of sin, individuals and groups might pray for personal, community, and governmental matters along these lines: Satan, in the name and under the blood of Jesus Christ, I/we resist your work of lying, stealing, etc. in (name of individual); I/we resist your works of bribery, corruption, etc. in (federal, state, county government, city council, etc.). In the name of Jesus Christ I/we pray for conviction of sin and redemption, for the displacement of evil practices, and for the establishment of virtue, honesty, good government, etc. "Resist the devil and he will flee." (James 4:7)

—Gary Bergel, IFA Senior Editor

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Praying to Preserve America

Nathan Curby

Part of the role of the church in the world is to act as a preserving influence (See “A Falling Away” by Derek Prince, IFA Prayer Letter March 2010). Conservatism is in its essence the idea of preserving what is good. Russell Kirk, noted author of “The Roots of American Order,” identified ten conservative principles that are central to the preservation of society.

First, the conservative believes that there exists an enduring moral order. According to Kirk, the order of the individual soul is primary to the order of the whole society. Kirk said, “Our twentieth-century world has experienced the hideous consequences of the collapse of belief in a moral order. Like the atrocities and disasters of Greece in the fifth century before Christ, the ruin of great nations in our century shows us the pit into which fall societies that mistake clever self-interest, or ingenious social controls, for pleasing alterna-

“Conservatism is in its essence the idea of preserving what is good.”

tives to an oldfangled moral order.” Paul wrote in Romans 1:19-20, “That which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what was made, so that they are without excuse.” A nation falls into ruin when it ignores the laws of God that He has made clear through nature. Kirk continued, “A society in which men and women are governed by belief in an enduring moral order, by a strong sense of right and wrong, by personal convictions about justice and honor, will be a good society—whatever political machinery it may utilize; while a society in which men and women are morally adrift, ignorant of norms, and intent chiefly upon gratification of appetites, will be a bad society—no matter how many people vote and no matter how liberal its formal constitution may be.” *Pray first that American society will begin again to acknowledge the enduring moral order God has placed in creation.*

Second, the conservative adheres to custom, convention, and continuity. Ephesians 6:2-3 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” Kirk said, “Continuity is the means of linking generation to generation; it matters as much for society as it does for the individual; without it, life is meaningless.” *Pray for America to honor what has been passed down from our fathers.*

Third, conservatives believe in what may be called the principle of prescription. “Conservatives sense that modern people are dwarfs on the shoulders of giants, able to see farther than their ancestors only because of the great stature of

“Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die....”

—Rev 3:2 NASB

those who have preceded us in time. Therefore conservatives very often emphasize the importance of prescription—that is, of things established by immemorial usage, so that the mind of man runneth not to the contrary.” *Pray for recognition of the principle of prescription.*

Fourth, conservatives are guided by their principle of prudence. “Any public measure ought to be judged by its probable long-run consequences, not merely by temporary advantage or popularity. Liberals and radicals, the conservative says, are imprudent: for they dash at their objectives without giving much heed to the risk of new abuses worse than the evils they hope to sweep away. As John Randolph of Roanoke put it, Providence moves slowly, but the devil always hurries. Human society being complex, remedies cannot be simple if they are to be efficacious. The conservative declares that he acts only after sufficient reflection, having weighed the consequences. Sudden and slashing reforms are as perilous as sudden and slashing surgery.” *Pray that government would act for the long-term good of the citizens.*

Fifth, conservatives pay attention to the principle of variety. “The only true forms of equality are equality at the Last Judgment and equality before a just court of law; all other attempts at levelling must lead, at best, to social stagnation. Society requires honest and able leadership; and if natural and institutional differences are destroyed, presently some tyrant or host of squalid oligarchs will create new forms of inequality.” *Pray that “equalization” efforts would not stamp out individual conscience.*

Sixth, conservatives are chastened by their principle of imperfectability. “Human nature suffers irremediably from certain grave faults, the conservatives know. Man being imperfect, no perfect social order ever can be created.” We will one day be perfected in Christ, but that can only come when this earth has passed away and the new heaven and new earth have come. *Pray that government would not attempt to replace Christ as the savior of mankind.*

Seventh, conservatives are persuaded that freedom and property are closely linked. “The more widespread is the possession of private property, the more stable and productive is a commonwealth. Economic levelling, conservatives maintain, is not economic progress. Getting and spending are not the chief aims of human existence; but a sound economic basis

for the person, the family, and the commonwealth is much to be desired.” *Pray that the government would protect individual property and the freedom to provide for one’s family.*

Eighth, conservatives uphold voluntary community, quite as they oppose involuntary collectivism. “In a genuine community, the decisions most directly affecting the lives of citizens are made locally and voluntarily. Some of these functions are carried out by local political bodies, others by private associations: so long as they are kept local, and are marked by the general agreement of those affected, they constitute healthy community.” *Pray for Americans to love their neighbors in such a way that local communities cannot be replaced by centralized government.*

Ninth, the conservative perceives the need for prudent restraints upon power and upon human passions. “Knowing human nature for a mixture of good and evil, the conservative does not put his trust in mere benevolence. Constitutional restrictions, political checks and balances, adequate enforcement of the laws, the old intricate web of restraints upon will and appetite—these the conservative approves as instruments of freedom and order.” *Pray that constitutional checks and balances on power would not be done away with.*

“Providence moves slowly, but the devil always hurries.” —John Randolph

Tenth, the thinking conservative understands that permanence and change must be recognized and reconciled in a vigorous society. “The conservative, in short, favors reasoned and temperate progress; he is opposed to the cult of Progress, whose votaries believe that everything new necessarily is superior to everything old. Change is essential to the body social, the conservative reasons, just as it is essential to the human body. A body that has ceased to renew itself has begun to die. But if that body is to be vigorous, the change must occur in a regular manner, harmonizing with the form and nature of that body; otherwise change produces a monstrous growth, a cancer, which devours its host. The conservative takes care that nothing in a society should ever be wholly old, and that nothing should ever be wholly new. This is the means of the conservation of a nation, quite as it is the means of conservation of a living organism. Just how much change a society requires, and what sort of change, depend upon the circumstances of an age and a nation.” *Pray that change would be carefully undertaken in light of the U.S. Constitution and be beneficial to America’s people.*

—Nathan Curby, IFA Assistant Editor. The above is adapted from an expanded “Ten Conservative Principles” essay by Russell Kirk, posted as a “Featured Article” under “Resources” at www.ifapray.org.

UNIVERSITY DANIEL FAST TO APRIL 9

40 Days for Revival | www.jhopboston.org

GLOBAL "JUST PRAY NO!" APRIL 10/11

Prayer for the Addicted | www.justprayno.org

CAMPUS "DAY OF TRUTH" APRIL 15

★ ORLANDO, FL – Christian high school and college students are demonstrating the love of Christ to their peers during a Day of Truth. This annual student-led event is dedicated to conversation and dialog about relationships, sexuality, and faith. The Alliance Defense Fund launched the Day of Truth in 2005 to give Christian students a legal platform in public schools. In 2009 the Day of Truth transitioned to Exodus International, the Church's largest ministry addressing faith and same-sex attraction. For more information visit www.dayoftruth.org or www.exodusinternational.org

"EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION" MADE MANDATORY IN U.S. MILITARY

WASHINGTON, DC – Some, but not all, U.S. military facilities had stocked "Plan B," the "Morning After Pill," since 2007. In early February, the Obama administration made it a requirement for the whole of the U.S. military. Since U.S. military facilities do not have co-pays for drugs, U.S. taxpayers will be footing the bill for this "emergency contraception" which, in reality, is an abortifacient as it prevents any fertilized egg from implanting in the lining of a woman's womb. (W 3/13/10)

VIDEO SHOWS PLANNED PARENTHOOD COVERING SEX ABUSE

★ MILWAUKEE, WI – Live Action has released a full, unedited video from an undercover investigation of a Planned Parenthood (PP) clinic. The video shows PP staff counseling a purportedly 14-year-old statutory rape victim not to tell anyone about her 31-year-old "boyfriend" and coaching her to obtain an abortion without her parents' consent. The Wisconsin Attorney General and Milwaukee District Attorney are being asked to probe Planned Parenthood, the abortion industry's largest provider. (CN LA 3/1/10)

COURT TO RULE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF UNIVERSITY GROUPS

WASHINGTON, DC – The Supreme Court was set to hear arguments and rule on whether official campus-recognized student organizations at public universities can limit membership to students who share their religious doctrines and views. At issue is the functioning of a Christian Legal Society (CLS) chapter at the University of California Hastings College of the Law. The University denied the CLS chapter on the basis of being "discriminatory" because it denied membership to practicing homosexuals and others who refuse to sign the CLS doctrinal statement of faith. (CLS PM 2/28/10)

OBAMA APPOINTS MUSLIM ENVOY BUT NO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AMBASSADOR

WASHINGTON, DC – Fourteen months into his administration, Obama has not appointed a replacement as Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, a position held for seven years under the Bush administration. On February 13 Obama did, however, announce the appointment of Rashad Hussain, deputy associate White House counsel, as U.S. special envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The Saudi-based OIC calls itself the "collective voice of the Muslim world." (W 3/13/10)

In America Today...



"PRAYER FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

★ COLORADO SPRINGS, CO – The 59th Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 6, 2010. Millions will unite in prayer at thousands of events from coast to coast. The theme for this coming year is based on the verse from Nahum 1:7 which states: "The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him." Dr. Franklin Graham will join Shirley Dobson to lead the nation in prayer as the 2010 Honorary Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

In 1775, the Continental Congress called upon people to pray for God's wisdom in forming a nation. In 1952, President Harry S. Truman established an annual National Day of Prayer via a joint resolution of Congress. The law was amended in 1988 to set the day as the first Thursday of May. In 2008, Alliance Defense Foundation attorneys sent an information letter to nearly 1,200 of America's largest cities, advising them of their constitutional right to recognize and participate in the National Day of Prayer.

SHIRLEY DOBSON CHARGES DISMISSED

★ WASHINGTON, DC – A federal judge issued an order on Tuesday, March 1 dismissing all claims against Mrs. Shirley Dobson in a lawsuit alleging that government-issued proclamations encouraging citizens to pray are unconstitutional. Alliance Defense Fund attorneys filed a motion for summary judgment in the suit filed by the Freedom from Religion Foundation, and the court granted that motion. (ADF 3/2/10)

COURT PERMITS DC SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Supreme Court turned down an appeal argued before Chief Justice John Roberts on March 1, thereby refusing to stop the issuing of same-sex marriage licenses. The appeal asked that DC voters be permitted a referendum on the issue. (AP 3/2/10)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES STOP WORK IN DC

WASHINGTON, DC – As a result of the Washington, DC city council's vote to recognize same-sex marriages, the city's largest private provider of social services, Catholic Charities, has ended its foster care and adoption services in the nation's capital. The new same-sex marriage laws would force the faith-based organization to process adoptions for homosexual couples. (W 3/13/10)

DISCIPLINE OF CONFESSION STRESSED

★ CAROL STREAM, IL – The March issue of Christianity Today's "Kyria" resource for women (www.Kyria.com), emphasized the spiritual discipline of confession—the practice of acknowledging our brokenness to God and others so that we can be restored to the fullness of redemption and life. Such honest public sharing and confession of sin is a growing trend crossing many church traditions. (CN 3/1/10)

"SECRETS OF THE MOUNTAIN" APRIL 16

★ NEW YORK, NY – Walmart and Procter & Gamble have jointly created a "family-friendly" made-for-TV movie which will air on NBC on Friday, April 16. The two-hour movie, "Secrets of the Mountain," focuses on a single mother who brings her family to a mountainside cabin, highlights values—such as generosity, honesty and togetherness. The Walmart and P&G executives say they teamed up because such values are in short supply on television. (WSJ 2/11/10)

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 23

Worldwide Day of Prayer | www.gdopusa.com

CREATION CARE PRAYER DAY MAY 25

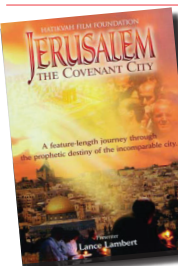
Nationwide Day of Prayer | www.creationcare.org

NEW IFA OWIW BLOG AND PRAYER HELPS

★ PURCELLVILLE, VA – You are invited to visit IFA's new On Watch In Washington (OWIW) blog at www.ifapray.org/blog. You will find perspectives to help you pray with insight and understanding. At the blog site you can pray in agreement with the latest IFAPray Tweets and you can sign-up to receive the On Watch In Washington mid-week email prayer alert. Free Web tools to help you build and mobilize a prayer group are available at www.GetAmericaPraying.com.

We are grateful to be able to provide these additional prayer helps; your prayers and monthly financial support help make these services possible. Are you aware that you can give to IFA directly from an IRA? Contact IFA President Dave Kubal to assist you with an IRA contribution, stock transfers, or estate planning questions.

★ = An answer or development to an IFA First Friday or On Watch in Washington Alert. Publication index: ADF = Alliance Defense Fund; AP = Associated Press; CLS = Christian Legal Society (www.clsnet.org); CN = Christian NewsWire; LA = LiveAction.org; PM = Parade Magazine; W = World Magazine; WSJ = Wall Street Journal



JERUSALEM: THE COVENANT CITY by Lance Lambert / Hugh Kitson – Why do world leaders wage war for the Temple Mount and rage over "the final status" of Jerusalem? Part 1 of "Jerusalem: The Covenant City" traces the prophetic history of the Holy City. Part 2 explores what the Bible has to say about Jerusalem's present and future destiny. We discover that as we move into the third millennium of the Christian era, the destiny of the whole world hinges upon the destiny of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. This 108-minute documentary will bring you a memorable message of challenge and hope. \$15.95 + \$3.50 shipping. Order from IFA Fulfillment Center, c/o The Christian Shoppe, PO Box 1058, Purcellville, VA 20134. Credit card orders toll-free 888-349-4446 or via www.ifaresources.com.

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"Pray ... for all who are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence, for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior." —1 Tim 2:1-3