

For Our Information

Paula Laubach is still dealing with pain and difficulty as a result of her recent vehicle accident.

Joyce Venable has been suffering with some sinus issues this past week.

John Jackson's Mother, Nettie, is doing a little better after receiving some antibiotics.

Ricky Ragsdale is doing about the same.

Others of our number have health issues that must be dealt with also. We need to talk with one another to determine if there might be something we can do to help and remember one another in prayer.

Keep your brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

of government may rule our country, it is the hearts of men and women that will determine the path we travel to our future. The turmoil and trouble we see around us is caused by hearts that have been poisoned by selfishness and greed. Satan has used his messengers to turn our neighbors, and maybe even self, into unloving and undisciplined beings with a focus on little other than satisfying the base desires of our fleshly bodies.

If we want a society that cares for the life of others, we need to teach the importance of selflessness and service to our friends and family. We need to show others our love and concern for those who are less fortunate. If we want a society that values life, we must demonstrate and teach the need to reach out to help those who are sick or in danger of hurt and harm. If we want a society that values Godly things, we must live in a manner that shows God is to be valued. Each of us must live God's Word every day of our life. DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

Tanner St Bulletin Volume 5 Number 31

July 2016

Our Year Of Political Turmoil

Kent Heaton

The political year of 2008 will be engraved upon the pages of history as a most unusual time. Some describe the year as one of political turmoil. There is so much unsettling with the state of the Union, the affairs of State, the disturbing news of war that continues and moral values that seem to have lost any backbone at all. Everyone has an opinion about the Presidential race. In not too many months a new President will be selected. How will the country fare?

The fisherman apostle Peter was a tempestuous character filled with vim and vigor. He is renowned for his



*Honor all
people,
Love the
brotherhood,
Fear God,
Honor the
king.*

1Peter 2:17



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

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impetuous spirit that caused the Lord concern at times and yet found a source of strength for the Savior. Simon had many challenges to overcome from the reading of the gospels and the Acts. One cannot help but be moved by the change that takes place in the reading of Peter's epistles. He is a different man there. Found within the words of his first epistle, Peter proclaims, "Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king" (**1Peter 2:17**).

A simple four-point lesson of being at peace with all men (**Hebrews 12:14**) shows the relationship with humanity, the body of Christ, the Godhead and the government. The remarkable admonition of this verse is the consideration of giving honor to the king. While the date of **1Peter** is not determined with a complete authority, "numerous incidental and inferential references in the book fix the date within reasonably well defined limits ... We may, therefore, with reasonable probability, fix the date of the epistle on the eve of the Neronian persecution." (Woods, Guy N., A Commentary on the Epistles of Peter, pp16,17.).

Nero's rule is often associated with tyranny and extravagance. Space does not permit a discourse on the immoral, depraved, turbulent, corrupt world of the political atmosphere of Peter's day. Just one name will sum it up: Nero. The early Christians lived in this type of world. When reading the epistle from the apostle of Christ, their hearts must have ached at the knowledge that honor was to be given to such a man as Nero. Adam Clarke said of this passage, "Pay that respect to the emperor which his high authority requires, knowing that civil power is of God; that the

Store In My Heart

Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Interesting that this verse is next in my list since we considered it in full context last Wednesday evening's study.

Every version I read from said the same thing. Getting into Heaven requires obedience of the individual. No matter how you look at it, Jesus said our salvation requires us to fulfill the commands of His Father.

We cannot work hard enough to get into Heaven on our own. But if we do not work diligently at fulfilling God's Will, He will not give us eternal rest in Heaven.

authority with which he, in the course of his providence, has invested him, must be respected in order to its being obeyed; and that if the man be even bad, and as a man be worthy of no reverence, yet he should be respected on account of his office."

The apostle Paul wrote, "*I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity*" (**1Timothy 2:1-2**). This is not a year of political turmoil; this is a year of devoted prayer for those who will be in authority so that gospel will continue to have free course. Next year when a new President enters the Oval Office, those same prayers must be offered in respect and honor – no matter our political slant or view. Christians are in the world but not of the world. We are to stand above the rabble of dissent that disrespects those in authority (**Romans 13:1-7**). Just think ... we could be living in the time of Nero ... and then what?

(With all the political talk going on around us I thought this article from 8 years ago might be timely. We need to keep our focus on what really matters even when the society around us seems to be tearing itself apart. No matter who is selected to lead our country this fall, we are obligated to honor them as God's avenger against those who practice evil.

If we want to see changes in our society we must understand that such change does not come from government or laws, it must come from the hearts of those who make up that society. No matter what kind