

# GOVERNMENT and the CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE

*by Rebekah Prewitt*

There is nothing like an election to inflame emotions, raise tension, and divide people from each other. Regardless of where you live, an election stirs up a lot of anger. Even in a country as small as Guyana in South America, an election will bring out the worst in people. But, are Christians supposed to respond like those around them?

No matter where you live, here is a brief reminder about how Christians ought to behave as it relates to government.

The Apostle Paul tells us:

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another (Titus 3:1-3).

The apostle Peter also tells us, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well" (1 Peter 2:13-19).

Do you remember the prophet Jeremiah? He told the king of Judah and the people to serve the the king of Babylon. He said if they did this, they would live in peace. However, the king of Judah and the people who were supposed to be "God's people" refused to bring their necks under the heathen king and, as a result, were destroyed except for Jeremiah and few others.

Paul says again, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation" (Romans 13:1, 2).

We must remember that our vote is not as important as we may want to think because ultimately "promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (Psalm 75:6,7). It is the Lord who decides. If He chooses to put President Obama in office, we must learn to thank Him, because He knows best. If we become all riled up, we will stir up hatred.

Christians who truly possess the love of God in their hearts, instead of railing on Hillary Clinton or some other candidate, will get down on their knees and pray for his or her salvation thanking God for the opportunity that He has to display His mighty power in their lives. Wouldn't that be more like truly loving your enemies?

"And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts" (1 Peter 3:13-15).

If you have been guilty of speaking evil of those in authority, now is the time to repent. It is not people you are resisting, but God Himself (Romans 13:1-2). Do not forget that "he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons" (Colossians 3:25).