**Government**

**Why we pray**

## **Scripture calls believers to pray for those in authority, regardless of political party or allegiance.**

In the days Jesus spent on earth, there was tension within the local Jewish leaders concerning the overlying occupation by the Roman government. History records several uprisings and rebellions against the Romans during the same time period, however, Jesus’ teachings primarily revolved around the Kingdom of God. The book of Mark records the now famous words that Jesus uttered “Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s, render unto God what is God’s” to show that government has a use, but it is not our savior and cannot compete with our allegiance to Christ Jesus.

In our country, our government has many different sectors that perform many different tasks. Local government influences the buildings and schools that populate communities. State government influences the operation of businesses and the roadways to get to them. Federal government influences the relationships with other nations for international commerce and military aid for our allies.

The ‘forest’ of government is full of ‘trees’ that are the individually elected and appointed officials who are tasked with representing the interests of their constituents and seeking wise counsel to make decisions to lead our country forward. The sphere of government leaders needs our prayers!

**How we pray**

**Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the places God reveals how we should interact and participate in government. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God’s purpose for Government:**

1 Kings 3:28 - “*And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice.”*

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - “*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,* ***2*** *for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”*

Exodus 18:21 - “*Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.”*

Proverbs 11:3 - “*The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.”*

Romans 13:1-2 - “*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.* ***2*** *Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.”*

**What to pray**

**Pray for our leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom and to act with integrity.**

* Provide leaders with wise and godly counselors who will provide honest wisdom and encouragement
* Well up humility in the hearts of leaders to make apologies or adjustments when these things are necessary
* Lord, pour out a spirit of cooperation between elected leaders
* Break down the barriers that are built up by selfish ambition for personal power
* Safeguard the marriages and families of elected leaders who spend large portions of time away from home
* God, give leaders clarity to know what issues are most important to dedicate their time toward
* Soften the hearts of leaders to hear and understand the needs of the communities they serve
* Bring a spirit of harmony and righteousness among the staff members who work to support each elected leader
* Protect leaders from falling into temptations of bribes, unfaithfulness or straying from what they know is right. Lord, protect them from the plots of evil to stand for what You have established

**Federal Government**

* President Donald Trump
* Vice President JD Vance
* House Speaker Mike Johnson
* President pro temp Chuck Grassley
* Secretary of State Marco Rubio
* Senate Majority Leader John Thune
* Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
* US House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries
* New Jersey Senator Cory Booker
* New Jersey Senator Andy Kim
* New Jersey Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman
* Chief Justice John Roberts
* Associate Justice Clarence Thomas
* Associate Justice Samuel Alito
* Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor
* Associate Justice Elena Kagen
* Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch
* Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh
* Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett
* Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson

**State Government**

* Governor Phil Murphy
* Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way
* Senate President Nicholas Scutari
* General Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin
* Senator Shirley Turner
* Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson
* Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli
* Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
* Justice Anne Paterson
* Justice Fabiana Pierre-Louis
* Justice Rachel Wainer Apter
* Justice Douglas Fasciale
* Justice Michael Noreiega
* Justice John Jay Hoffman

**Local Government**

* Mayor Bert Steinmann
* Council President Jennifer Keyes-Maloney
* Council Vice President David Schroth
* Councilman Kevin Baxter
* Councilwoman Sarah Steward
* Councilwoman Kathleen Wollert
* Police Chief Albert Rhodes
* Fire Director Marc Strauss
* Municipal Court Judge Kimberly Lacken
* Mercer County Executive Dan Benson
* Commission Chair Kristin McLaughlin
* Commision Vice Chair Terrance Stokes
* Commision Chair John Cimino
* Commissioner Samuel Frisby
* Commissioner Cathleen Lewis
* Commissioner Nina Melker
* Commissioner Lucylle Walter

**Military**

**Why we pray**

## **In the Old Testament, we see God leading the Israelites through battles into the promised land.**

The sphere of the military has always been an influence in cultures throughout time. In the New Testament, see the Apostle Paul use military terminology to help believers comprehend spiritual truths, such as relating physical armor to spiritual armor and explaining the spiritual battle we fight against the powers of darkness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Historically, the United States military has fought for the freedoms we see in our legal documents and to uphold American interests in other countries. The military itself is composed of thousands of volunteers from all walks of life who submit themselves to fulfill the needs of our country, whether that is across the world or across state lines. The armed services can provide a sense of purpose and structure, as well as opportunities in growing career fields. However, job stress and the unique culture of the military can also foster an environment that increases the likelihood of substance abuse and can place a great strain on marriage and family life. Military members are often exposed to dangerous and violent situations and have a higher rate of experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, divorce, homelessness, and other life-altering challenges. The military needs our prayer!

**How we pray**

**Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for wisdom on God’s design for each person to rely on the Lord and His provision. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see how we can pray for members of our military:**

2 Chronicles 32:6-8 - “*And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying,* ***7*** *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him.* ***8*** *With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.”*

*“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” – Romans 8:38-39*

**What to pray**

**Current Deployed CCMercer members**

John Ruzzi

Matt Vigna

* **Perseverance to endure hardship**
* Isaiah 43:2 - “*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”*
* Deuteronomy 31:6 - “*Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”*
* **Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command.**
* Romans 13:1 - “*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”*
* **Protection and support for the families they have left behind.**
* Romans 1:8-10 - “*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.* ***9*** *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you* ***10*** *always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.”*

**Media**

**Why we pray**

## **God demonstrated the ultimate creativity when He created the Heavens and the Earth and all that is within it.**

As people populated the Earth, God poured creative talents into people for different works that would benefit them and glorify the Lord. Today, people with these creative gifts make up the Arts, Entertainment, and Media spheres. The average American consumes an astounding amount of media each day: entertainment television, digital games, social media, news, and music. These influences shape the things we think about, the words we say, and the way we see others and treat them. It takes prayer to discern what media influences will keep the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts acceptable and pleasing to God. (Psalm 19:14)

The people who make tv shows, report the news, and perform in shows need our prayers. They are filled with God-given talents and abilities and need the Lord to guide them in using their gifts to glorify Him. Some need to experience salvation, while others need a faith community to surround them with support. Thousands of Christians who work in arts and entertainment are fighting to infuse wholesome and uplifting content in our culture while Christians in the media sphere work hard to honor the God of Truth through truthful news reporting. Arts, Entertainment and Media needs our prayers!

**How we pray**

**Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the heart of the Creator who is the source of all creativity and who knows what our hearts and minds need in the entertainment we consume. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God’s design and purpose for Arts, Entertainment and Media:**

Philippians 4:8 - “*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”*

**What to pray**

* **The decision makers within the media to realize they can make a profit by producing uplifting projects**
* Proverbs 8:10-11 - “*Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold,* ***11*** *for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.”*
* **Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and live-giving messages to the public**
* Proverbs 2:1-15 - “*My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,* ***2*** *making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;* ***3*** *yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,* ***4*** *if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,* ***5*** *then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.* ***6*** *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;* ***7*** *he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,* ***8*** *guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.* ***9*** *Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;* ***10*** *for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;* ***11*** *discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you,* ***12*** *delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech,* ***13*** *who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness,* ***14*** *who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil,* ***15*** *men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.”*

**Business**

**Why we pray**

## **Since the beginning of time, divisions of labor and trade of goods and services has been a consistent occupation for people across every era and time period.**

Each of these heroes of the faith boldly followed the call of the Lord even in their different positions. There is no exclusive job title necessary to be used by God. It is a JOY, not a JOB, to be obedient to God to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, love our neighbor as ourselves, and go into all the world and make disciples. (Matthew 22:37 and Matthew 28:19-20)

Each person is created in the image of God and holds inherent dignity, and as His creator God calls each person to work as if working as a representative of Christ. Therefore, both our place of work and our heart’s position at work need to reflect our dignity and obedience to God. A God-honoring business can be a great benefit to employees and the community, and a person who honors God in each task throughout the day speaks a testimony of faith. We need to cover our workplaces in prayer to see hearts changed for the Kingdom of God!

**How we pray**

**Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom concerning righteous ways to conduct business and honor God while working. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God’s design and purpose for righteous working practices:**

Exodus 31:3-4 - “*and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship,* ***4*** *devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze,”*

Psalm 112:5 *It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.*

**What we pray**

* **Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost**
* Psalm 132:15 - “*I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.”*
* **Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers**
* Philippians 2:3 - *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”*
* Reveal
* May each business leader be of great character: of integrity, humbleness of spirit and heart, honest in speech and actions, empathetic and vulnerable.
* Lord, raise up a workforce that is filled with a spirit of excellence and unity in all they do
* Dispel any false belief that a person’s value comes from a job title—let the truth ring out that a person is valuable because they are image bearers of You, their Creator
* Pour out a spirit of generosity onto the mountain of Business like never before
* May the gifts of the work of their hands be a great blessing to each family and community
* Father, open the hearts of business leaders to be soul-searching, to cast out any greed, selfish ambition and idols and lay them on the altar of repentance
* Give shift leaders hearts genuinely concerned with the overall wellbeing of their workers

**Education**

**Why we pray**

## **God established families at the foundation of the world, creating Eve from Adam’s bone, and growing children from their union.**

Education is an investment into the future, and a unifying connecting point for each person. The Apostle Paul used this universal fact to convey the spiritual truth of ‘growing up’ in Christ-like wisdom and letting go of childish ways. (1 Corinthians 13:11)

There are endless avenues for young people to receive an education: public school, private school, homeschool, and formats that mix elements of each. Not to mention the many opportunities for extra-curricular activities. Parents and caretakers need wisdom from the Lord to make the right choice for their children to receive education that aligns with the truth of Scripture and helps them fulfill the plans the Lord has for them. Students need to know they were created by God with value and that their Creator has a purpose for them. Instructors need endurance to faithfully teach pupils in God-honoring lessons. The sphere of education needs our prayers!

**How we pray**

**Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom about children growing in knowledge and wisdom. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God’s design and purpose for the sphere of education:**

Proverbs 2:3-6 - *“yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,* ***4*** *if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,* ***5*** *then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.* ***6*** *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;”*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 - *“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”*

**What to pray**

* **A safe atmosphere conducive to learning**
* **Excellence in educators**
* Exodus 18:20-21 - “*and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do.* ***21*** *Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.”*
* **Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential**
* *“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,”*

**Church**

**Why we pray**

## **Jesus established the church to continue the work He had begun on Earth.**

The Church unites all believers in the proclamation of faith in Christ Jesus. There are many denominations and practices, but one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. (Ephesians 4:5-6)

A healthy church is a powerful tool God uses to bring people into salvation and a community that continues to spurn one another in the faith. We need to cover our churches in prayer, because there are many distractions that can prevent a church from living in the fullness of God’s design. Is a church too focused on perceived image and a single leader, or on making Christ known above all? Is a church ignoring issues, or addressing challenges with humble hearts seeking Biblical healing and justice? Are the church members actively living out a missional lifestyle and engaging in intergenerational discipleship or is church just a weekly event. The church needs our prayers!

**How we pray**

**Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom concerning challenges within the Church. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God’s design and purpose for the Church:**

Colossians 2:6-8 - *“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,* ***7*** *rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.* ***8*** *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”*

***Romans 12:4-5 -* For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.**

**What to pray**

* **The church to find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ**
* Matthew 22:37 - *“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*
* **Unity with and among churches that reveal God’s love to the world**
* John 17:23 - *“I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”*
* **Integrity–that God’s people look and act differently from the world**
* 1 Peter 2:11 - *“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.”*
* 1 Corinthians 13:6 - *“it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.”*

**Family**

**Why we pray**

## **God established families at the foundation of the world, creating Eve from Adam’s bone, and growing children from their union.**

Scripture even records God using the term ‘father’ to help our finite human minds begin to understand the relational nature of our omnipotent and all-powerful God. (Exodus 4:22)

The family is the first place we learn about God and create expectations for how to form relationships. Healthy families provide a strong foundation for children to grow into mature adults and model the love of Christ by sacrificially serving one another.

When the foundation of family is shaken through tragedy, trauma or broken trust, the foundation for life is shaken right along with it. Divorces, work/life imbalance and lack of loving support can profoundly shape the rest of a person’s life, even if the painful event occurred decades prior/ Christ shared in the sufferings of family troubles while He walked on Earth: the leaders of Nazareth rejected Him as the Son of God, refusing to see Him as more than “Joseph’s son.”

There are timeless challenges such as joining lives as a married couple and raising children, and there are the new challenges of navigating family dynamics in an age of the social media barrage of opinions and connections. Families need our prayers!

**How we pray**

**Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design for families and wisdom on cultivating a healthy family life. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God’s design and purpose for families:**

Mark 3:25 - *“And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”*

**What to pray**

* **Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others**
* Romans 12:9-13 - *“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.* ***10*** *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* ***11*** *Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.* ***12*** *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.* ***13*** *Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”*
* **Establish healthy relationships between parents and children**
* Malachi 4:5-6 - *“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.* ***5*** *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.* ***6*** *And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”*

**Calvary Mercer Ministries**

* Men’s Ministry
* Women’s Ministry
* C4 Young Adults
* Youth Group
* Marriage Small Group
* Book Club
* Small Groups (Home Groups)

**Ministries Supported by Calvary Mercer**

* The Tallaksen Family
* Narrow Road Ministries
* Permeate Evangelism
* Saints Prison Ministry
* PUMA
* Choice One
* Nuru Yake
* RHM

**Pray Against Idols, False Gods, and False Religions That are Becoming Prominent in Our Nation**

Because we live in a world with many competing truth claims—and many so-called gods—the identity of the one true God matters. The one true God is distinguished from all the false gods that have been foisted upon mankind by evil spirits and deluded men. Gods that are fashioned by the imaginations and hands of men are absolutely worthless (Isaiah 44:9–10), but the one true God is full of glory, grace, and truth (John 1:14).

The Bible says that the one true God is the sovereign, self-existent Creator of the universe (Isaiah 42:5; Ephesians 1:11). He is spirit (John 4:24), He is eternal (Psalm 90:2), and He is personal (Deuteronomy 34:10). The one true God possesses all knowledge (Isaiah 46:10) and all power (Matthew 19:26), is present in all places (Psalm 139:7–10), and is unchanging (James 1:17). There are many false gods—Hinduism alone supposedly recognizes as many as 330 million gods—but none of them possess the attributes of the one true God.

The Bible says that God is just (Acts 17:31), loving (Ephesians 2:4–5), truthful (Numbers 23:19), and holy (Isaiah 6:3). God shows compassion (2 Corinthians 1:3), mercy (Romans 9:15), and grace (Romans 5:17). God judges sin (Psalm 5:5), but He also offers forgiveness (Psalm 130:4). Any god that is not just, loving, truthful, holy, compassionate, merciful, gracious, and forgiving is not the one true God.

The one true God exists in tri-unity. The Bible speaks of three divine Persons who share the same nature and essence in one God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three in one (Matthew 3:16&17; 28:19). This characteristic of the one true God separates Him from all other gods of monotheistic religions: Islam, for example, teaches one god (Allah), but it is a false god, since Allah is not triune. Any concept of God that excludes Jesus Christ is faulty. As Scripture says, “No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also” (1 John 2:23).

The one true God wants to be known. He has revealed His power and glory in creation (Romans 1:20). He revealed Himself to Abram in Mesopotamia, calling him to a new life of faith and making of him a new nation (Genesis 12:1–3). The one true God later identified Himself as the “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob” (Exodus 3:6) and revealed Himself to Moses in Midian (verses 1–5). Using Moses, the one true God began to reveal Himself more clearly through His written Word, the Bible. And, finally, the one true God has given us the ultimate revelation of Himself in the Lord Jesus: “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” (Hebrews 1:1–2). Jesus is “the exact representation of [God’s] being” (verse 3). Jesus is the Word of God made flesh who “made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14).

We all have a choice of whom to worship. Joshua told the Israelites it was time for them to choose the one true God over the gods of the Amorites (Joshua 24:15). Elijah told the people on top of Mt. Carmel that they could no longer stay ambivalent concerning God: “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21). Today, people worship some of the same pagan gods mentioned in the Old Testament; or they worship more recent false gods such as Mami Wata and Cernunnos; or they worship themselves. But the worship of false deities leads only to death in the end. “This is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” (John 17:3). May we be like Ruth, who chose the one true God over the idols of Moab (Ruth 1:16).

A few (of many) examples of idols, false gods, and false religions in America today.

* 90 ft tall statue of the Hindu god Hanuman located at the Sri Ashtalakshmi Temple in Sugar Land, Texas
* BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in Robbinsville, NJ - Largest Hindutemple outside of Asia
* EPIC (East Plano Islamic Center) - A muslim community in Plano Tx., with Sharia Law and their own Police Force.
* Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh declared that his city is the “capital of Palestine” and “the fourth holiest city in the world” during the kickoff of Ramadan last month.

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