In his book, *Newton on The Christian Life*, Author Tony Reinke explores the ministry and theology John Newton. In one chapter—perhaps one of my favorites—Reinke describes Newton’s concern that Christians obsess too much and pray too little for politics and leaders. Though John Newton lived almost 300 years ago, his insights are alive and helpful today. The chapter (actually, the whole book) was a treasure chest of quotes letters and sermons. The following gems from Newton are taken from pages 171-176.

“There is a peace passing understanding, of which the politicians cannot deprive us.”

“Our Lord’s kingdom is not of this world; and most of his people may do their country much more essential service by pleading for it in prayer, than by finding fault with things which they have no power to alter.”

“He who loved you and died for your sins, is the Lord of glory. All power in heaven and in earth is committed unto him. The Lord reigneth, let the earth be never so unquiet. All creatures are instruments of his will. The wrath of man, so far as it is permitted to act, shall praise him, shall be made subservient to the accomplishment of his great designs; and the remainder of that wrath, of all their projected violence, which does not coincide with his wise and comprehensive plan, he will restrain.”

“I wish to watch, and pray, and mourn for the abounding of sin, and the abounding woes with which sin has filled the world. Nor would I forget my own sins, which contribute to fill the national cup.”

“My dear Sir, my prayer to God for you is, that he may induce you to employ the talents he has given you, in pointing out sin as the great cause and source of every existing evil, and to engage those who love and fear him, instead of losing time in political speculation, for which very few of them are tolerably competent, to sigh and cry for our abounding abominations, and to stand in the breach, by prayer, that, if it may be, wrath may yet be averted, and our national mercies prolonged. This, I think, is the true patriotism, the best, if not the only way, in which persons in private life may serve their country.”

“From poison and politics, good Lord deliver me. I think a political spirit as hurtful to the life of God in the soul as poison is to the bodily frame.”

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**SERMON NOTES**

Text: Philippians 1:27
Title: Dual Citizenship
Big Idea: ________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________
GROWTH GROUP STUDY

REFLECT

1. Do you spend regular time in prayer for our country? What requests are most frequent in your prayers (example: safety, freedom, etc.)?

2. What might your prayers reveal about your priorities for life and country?

ENCOUNTER

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6 together and spend time praying for those in authority.

Paul entreated Timothy to lead his church in Ephesus to pray for their leaders. A fascinating but often missed implication of this command is that we pray for our leaders, not to them. The Roman Emperor, like many rulers throughout history, was viewed as a god who received worship, sacrifices, and even prayers. But Paul says we pray for our leaders, not to them. This act of praying on behalf reveals an incredible power in the life of a Christian. According to the plan of God, leaders need our intercession, not our worship! We can gladly submit to them because we have an even high authority. God. Study these verses together and look at the object, purpose, and foundation of our prayers for those in authority.

3. Who are we to pray for? Who would that have been in Paul and Timothy’s time? Who might that be in ours?

4. Paul says the purpose of our prayers is that we may live a “peaceful and quiet life.” What do you think that means? Paul also describes the goal of the Christian life as “godly and dignified in every way.” Give some examples of how Christians do this well and not so well.

5. What is the theological foundation of our prayers in verses 4-6?

TRANSFORM

6. Based on these verses, what are some specific requests we could and should pray for our leaders?

7. How and when can you build regular prayer for leaders into your life?

During your prayer time, now take time to pray for our national leaders, local leaders, and the election. Pray that our response as Christians would be peaceful, quiet, godly and dignified.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the President and Vice President.

Pray for Congress.

Pray for the Supreme Court.

Pray for the military and our chaplains.

Pray for the Governor.

Pray for local officials like mayors and school boards.

Pray for the election.

Pray for our Christian testimony.