

## Humble Submission - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

***“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.”***  
**1.Tim.2:1-6**

Beloved in The Lord,

These words, written by the Apostle Paul, teach us that we are to pray for our Government and for all who are in authority. He gives us two reasons for doing so: That we may lead a tranquil and Godly life and that it is good and acceptable in the sight of God that we do so.

I sometimes wonder, how our world would look if we spent less time talking about politics and more time entreating God’s favour. If we spent all the energy we do complaining about our leaders, our governments, on prayer, what would our nation look like?

We need to understand that prayer is a very powerful thing indeed. When we pray, we push back the forces of evil and darkness, and we open the way for God’s power to be released. When we pray, we participate in God’s agenda. When we pray, we labour together with the Lord.

I think I will never forget the time when I was in Indonesia, in a service with about 8000 other people. At one stage everybody joined hands and prayed for the nation of Indonesia. It was a very powerful and uplifting experience.

Today we mark Latvian Independence day. We thank God, that Latvia is a free, democratic nation. We thank God that the iron chains of communism fell off, and that today the Red White Red flag of Latvia flies freely.

We must never become complacent, because freedom can vanish quickly. We must not doze off. We must be awake, alert at all times. We must never forget that we have an enemy who never sleeps. He is constantly roaming the earth causing trouble where ever he can. We read in 1 Peter:

***“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.” (1.Pet.5:8-9)***

Clearly stated. Satan is constantly looking at how to cause trouble, not only for individuals, but also whole nations. The only way to fight against him is faith in Jesus Christ and His Holy Word. Jesus is the answer to all our needs, whether in this life or in eternity. Where Jesus is

lifted up; where He is honoured and worshipped; there always follows blessing. Where there is no faith in Him. there is no blessing.

Latvia's National Anthem is really a prayer asking God to bless Latvia. If we truly desire God's blessing over Latvia, then we need to trust Him. God blesses those who put their trust in Him. We see this principle over and over again in the Bible. It is well stated in Psalm 1:

***"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the path of sinners,  
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!***

***<sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.***

***<sup>3</sup> He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,  
Which yields its fruit in its season  
And its leaf does not wither;  
And in whatever he does, he prospers.***

***<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so,  
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.***

***<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.***

***<sup>6</sup> For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the wicked will perish."***

This Psalm is really simple, yet powerful. We have two life styles contrasted. One is a blessed life the other cursed. This Psalm applies not only to individuals, but can be applied to Nations. A Nation that honours God, that fears God, that loves His Word and that strives to live obediently to Him is blessed.

My heart's desire and prayer is that we as Latvians would be like that tree that is planted by the streams of living water. We can be, if we humble ourselves before Almighty God and believe in Him and trust in Him.

Ah, herein is the key. We need to humble ourselves. I believe that the greatest sin amongst Latvians is pride. We say We can do it. We want to be lord over our land. We are Latvians. This is the wrong approach. We need to understand God's economy. In God's economy the way up is down. We find this principle all throughout the Scriptures.

***"Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted." (Mt.23:12)***

These are Jesus own words. We find this principle in all dealings with Almighty God. In order to receive His blessing, His favour, we need to be humble. We need to humbly submit to Him. We need to humbly trust in Him.

This is where we return to our foundation text. We read that we are to pray for all people. When we pray, we are bowing down, humbling ourselves. We may not bow physically, but in our hearts, in our attitude we submit to God. We kneel before Him in submission and trust.

We are clearly taught in James: ***“Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” (James 4:10)***

It could not be more simple. **Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.** This is a promise. If we will do as God says, then for His part, He will always do as He has promised.

There is no better place to be in life, then submitted to God. To be under His Mighty Hand.

The Bible is very clear that difficult times are coming. Those that think that things will get better are fooling themselves. With everyday, we draw closer to the close of this Age. The Day of Judgement is coming. We are living in the last days. Paul described them as difficult or another translation says “Fierce”. Jesus taught us that we need to be alert and praying.

Today, more than ever before it is important that we are alert. We need to pray and seek God’s face daily. Let us begin in our own homes. As they entered the promised land Joshua said to the nation of Israel:

***“Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:14-15)***

The people replied that they would serve the Lord. Sadly this was mainly lip service on the part of the majority. Their hearts were not in it. Joshua was faithful and the Lord blessed him.

How is it with us? I encourage you, and me, to make a fresh commitment today to surrender all to Him. To stand with Joshua and promise: ***“but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”***

May we commit to pray for our nation every day. To pray for those who govern.  
May we daily humble ourselves before God and may God bless Latvia and Australia. Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.