



*The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution states that the Constitution was "ordained and established" to "establish Justice, [and] insure [ensure] domestic Tranquility...."*

## INTRODUCTION

*How possible is tranquility in a land where millions are marching mad and so many are murdered by domestic enemies? Civil unrest has been so thick that it seems one could cut it with a knife. Today, we will look at part of the answer through a lens with which you may have never viewed this issue—the coordination of Church and State.*

## REBUILDING AMERICA: BIBLICALLY

This week ends our mini-series on a Biblically informed strategy for building and rebuilding any nation.<sup>a</sup> See Weeks 1-3 for **Points 1-13**.

## 14. THE APOSTLE PETER

This apostolic leader also knew Jesus' priority in reaching those in authority. Note his command:

**1 Peter 2:13-14** *"Submit, for the Lord's sake, to every human institution, whether to the king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and praise of those who do right."*

To accomplish the above, you will surely need to:

**1 Peter 2:12** *"Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation."*

In 1 Peter 2:12, the apostle is exhorting his Jewish converts to Christ to live exemplary lives before that culture's rulers for a specific purpose:

that they may "*glorify God in the day of visitation.*" This clause is Peter's way of saying that he desires that they "*be saved!*" Peter wants Gentile governing authorities throughout a pagan Roman Empire to come to know Christ.

➤ This passage strengthens the thesis of our mini-series. Peter says that the means by which political leaders can end up "*glorifying God in the day of visitation*" is when believers submit to the laws they make! Peter agrees with Paul on the importance of reaching rulers but has here given us the *how to*. A follower of Christ most effectively reaches political leaders *for* Christ while taking care to submit to their authority. Poor conduct in the Church equates to a poor testimony in the community and to its governing leaders. Truly breaking actual, written, moral laws of the land shows a fleshly unsubmitiveness, and weakens a Christian's credibility. God's people often fail, doing things illegal and immoral (look at a lying, adulterous murderer—King David). So, when we sin, we should ask for God "*to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9).

## 15. THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Jesus spoke prophetically of a future Tribulation.

**Mark 13:8-9** *"For nation will rise up against nation....But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them."*

Jesus specified that they would testify to political leaders. Thus, His First-Things-First emphasis continues—even into future epochs. Reaching rulers for Christ is an enduring principle running throughout the entire Biblical timeline.

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## 16. THE FUTURE KINGDOM

Peter exhorted us to have submissively respectful attitudes toward government officials. Further, believers need to respectfully learn from political leaders now, because, in the future, every believer will become one. After Christ's return, God's people will no longer *minister to* kings; they will *become* kings themselves! Many passages imply this future privilege. Observe two such passages:

**2 Timothy 2:12** "If we endure, we will also reign with [Christ]; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;"

**Revelation 5:10** "You [the Lamb] have made [the redeemed] to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Did you know that redeemed people will have the privilege of ruling and reigning with King Jesus on earth? He will grant believers governing positions and they will reign sinlessly, in sinless bodies, under His impeccable civil headship.

➤ The English verb "reign" comes from the Greek verb *basile'ō* (βασιλε'ω). It has a related (cognate) noun from which we get the English word "king." In English, we do not say that "kings (noun) king (verb)." We say "kings reign."

**LEGISLATORS LEGISLATE;  
PREACHERS PREACH;  
HOWEVER, IN ENGLISH,  
KINGS DO NOT "KING."**

The above passages state that believers will someday king (*reign*) with Him, implying that we too will live as governing authorities under His perfect rulership. If you are a believer reading this, get ready "to king" in your future life!

In the future, ministry will change from *pursuing* governing authorities *for* Christ to *being* a governing authority *with* Christ. Are you ready for your future's perfect political career path?

## 17. THE NATIONAL BENEFIT OF FIRST-THINGS-FIRST

Seminary professor Dr. Robert Thomas used to begin his class each day by praying for the salvation of our country's political leaders. A student asked him why he always prayed that way. "It's simple," he said. "It's just a matter of obedience to 1 Timothy 2:1-4 where we are told to *prioritize this*." He then quoted 1 Timothy 2:3 from memory, "This (evangelistic prayer for political leaders) is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior."

Let us look further at the immediate benefits of obedience to this principle. God promises that if we will do First-Things-First, that is, obey Christ's command to pray for and evangelize political leaders, something special will result. Insuring tranquility, a key idea in 1 Timothy 2:2b, is in the very middle of the passage yet *often overlooked*.

**1 Timothy 2:2b** "... so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."

➤ "So that" is a purpose clause, grammatically. It shows the cultural result of praying for and evangelizing rulers—a rather magnificent result. Every American wants "a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." Is that not the essence of the American Dream? If so, we do well to reclaim God's formula for insuring domestic tranquility! This is part of God's timeless prescription for building, maintaining, and restoring nations. Many church leaders have viewed the Church's primary role as lobbying government on moral issues, which is important in our Constitutional Republic. We see, however, in 1 Timothy 2:1-4, an explicit, First-Things-First procedure with which Christians can most effectively impact their nation. The Bible teaches that evangelizing and discipling governing authorities will result in a better nation. This is a cause-and-effect principle for nation building.

➤ Scripture says tranquility results in a nation when the Church prays for and shares the good news of God's gospel with governing authorities.



In this way, cultures can gain tranquility, quiet lifestyles (see Point 18), godliness, and dignity. In 1682, in the *Preface to the Frame of Government of the Colony of Pennsylvania*, Founder William Penn said, “Governments, like clocks, go from the motions men give them, and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them are they ruined too. Wherefore...

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**...GOVERNMENTS RATHER  
DEPEND UPON MEN THAN  
MEN UPON GOVERNMENTS.”**

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Political leaders do set a cultural, moral tone.

## **18. TRANQUILITY, QUIETNESS, GODLINESS, AND DIGNITY**

These four words used by Paul in 1 Timothy 2:2 provide a worthy conclusion to our series. They show specific benefits to a culture’s citizens when public servants are reached for Christ.

**TRANQUILITY:** The Greek word Paul uses appears only here in the New Testament.<sup>b</sup> In the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament (*The Septuagint*), it is found in *Proverbs 14:30*—“*A tranquil heart is life to the body...*” (*emphasis added*). Solomon’s use of the word means “a healthy, sound mind and emotions” in contrast to his second stanza of the Proverb: “*But passion is rottenness to the bones.*” The word used for “*passion*” is the root for our word “jealousy.” Internal tranquility results in external health benefits. When one happily lives in a nation known for high degrees of civil serenity, minimal mental agitation, and cultural calm, there will be greater physical health in the people. This is the America and Nebraska where you and I really want to live.

**QUIETNESS:** I find it interesting to study Paul’s use of this Greek word. Translated here as “*quiet*,” it is also found in 1 Thessalonians 4:11, which says, “*and make it your own ambition to lead a quiet life, and attend to your own business, and work*

*with your hands...*” (*emphasis added*). Paul’s use of the Greek word *quiet* has similar, interesting, and insightful associations in this passage and the one to follow. In both passages this word is related to the opportunity to pursue one’s dreams and the freedom to build one’s future through personal industry and initiative. Note that “*quiet*” is associated with “*own business*” and “*own hands.*” Where the Gospel goes and affects government leadership and constitutional formation, those countries usually have freer enterprise and greater personal prosperity than countries without the Gospel. The two go hand-in-hand.

➤ The second use of the word *quiet* appears in 2 Thessalonians 3:12—“*Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.*” Paul associates private ownership with the use of this word *quiet*. Personal benefits and *quietness* go together.

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**THIS IS PART OF THE  
THEOLOGICAL ROOT OF  
CAPITALISM (AS OPPOSED TO  
SOCIALISM).**

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However, this is not a license for greed or selfishness, since the next two words speak of internal spiritual health and humane balance: godliness and dignity.

**GODLINESS:** This word appears fifteen times in the New Testament and is synonymous with “Christ-likeness.” A popular phrase defining godliness is “*What Would Jesus Do?*” (#WWJD). When citizens pursue personal holiness and when political leaders have also been affected by the Gospel, the result will be a Christ-like culture of provision for the needy, care for the unborn and elderly, and wise stewardship of all budgets. There will be the conscientious economic development of natural resources. A godly citizenry subdues God’s good earth (per Genesis 1:28’s *Dominion Mandate*), extracting its resources.



Christian cultures respect the Creator’s creation. They turn the God-given gift of raw materials into value-added products and services for the prosperity and well-being of all people. Godly people, leaders, and cultures manifest *godliness* practically, and economically, and lovingly.

**DIGNITY:** This word in 1 Timothy 2:2b, consistent with the rest of the Bible, teaches that people have intrinsic worth. The Gospel will cause them to seek to live honorably, having a God-like seriousness in their pursuits. By the sheer gravity of their made-in-the-image-of-God character, redeemed humans affect the world in a dignified way. So it is in a world where lawmakers are strengthened through prayer and the Gospel. They make laws infused with respect for the *dignity* of all people made in God’s image.

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**HUMAN DIGNITY  
AUTOMATICALLY RESULTED  
WHEN WE WERE MADE  
IMAGO DEI (IN GOD’S IMAGE).**

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➤ A historical summary and observation is in order. In the early days of the Republic, our Founding Fathers were profoundly affected by their Christian faith, and as a result there was a higher degree of tranquility, quietness, godliness, and dignity (as defined above) than we see today. Why? The Church (and the Holy Spirit through the Great Awakenings) had profoundly infused the Founding Fathers with the faith. That faith infusion was truly foundational for the creation of one of world history’s greatest nations. Today’s Church has neglected the priority of this missionary mandate. The results are increasingly evident. American history handsomely illustrates this cause and effect relationship—Gospel-infused government leaders and a tranquility-insured culture go hand in hand; you cannot have one without the other. First-Things-First.

## 19. CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION

The principle of First-Things-First implies that Christians need to emphasize reaching political leaders for Christ in order to best fulfill the Great Commission. This is how we restore our nation. This brief study shows that there is great value, both presently and eternally, when believers focus on making disciples of political leaders throughout the world. When the believer and the Church embrace reaching political leaders for Christ, there are at least three positive results: First, the believer is personally blessed for obeying a vital tenet of the Word of God (“*This is good and acceptable in the sight of God...*”); second, the Great Commission is efficiently fulfilled (“*Who desires all men to be saved...*”); and third, the restoration and preservation of the nation is gained (“*so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life...*”). These three benefits are unmistakably evident from a close study of this passage.

## THEOLOGICAL FUEL TO REBUILD

Most Honorable Senator:

I trust this mini-series has helped you better understand your vital role in culture and why God has created the institution of the State. I pray that you will use the spiritual nutrition and theological vitamins in these four Senate Studies to work hard for the Christ who did His Good-Friday cross work for you. Also, “*There is no governing authority except as has been ordained by God.*” That includes you. Let us work and pray diligently for Christ in the Capitol, to rebuild our great state, since, influentially, there really is no separation of Church and State.

For God’s glory alone,

Rev. Perry M. Gauthier, V.D.M. (cell/text: 402-770-6270)

<sup>a</sup> Ralph Drollinger’s “Rebuilding America,” the basis for this study, is available free: <https://capmin.org/download-rebuilding-nation/>

<sup>b</sup> Grammatically, this is called a *hapax legomenon* which, in Greek, means “*a thing said (only) once.*”