

## Occasional Update #18

19 October 2023

### PRAYING FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT

#### CHURCH AND STATE

**Some people**, including some Christians, say they are not interested in “politics”. They don’t care about “who gets in”, and maybe didn’t “bother” voting. If this is the case, then don’t complain about what happens in and through the new government. *At the least pray!*

**Other people** may feel that Church and State/Government are totally different and should be totally independent – the Church deals with the “spiritual world” (the Christian faith), while the Government deals with the country we live in – the physical and social world. They may base this on what Jesus said in Matthew 22:21, namely, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." So they may think ‘Christians shouldn’t get involved in politics’, including, perhaps, Christian political parties?

**BUT** the Government and its decisions have an impact on **all of us**, whether we like it or not.

Hence Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 2:1-3,

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone – for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour”

What a government decides, affects our ...

Economy, inflation, taxes, poverty, wages, employment, social and moral and racial issues, people with disabilities, the disadvantaged, those who struggle with their financial and other needs. And some of the more important issues that Ministries such as Welfare, Health, Education, Finance, etc., deal with.

I believe we need to pray for the following, especially now. It’s not all over yet!

- Final results of the elections.
- Coalitions that made be formed.
- New Prime Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister.
- Choice of Ministers, and their Ministries.
- List MPs chosen by each Party.
- New MPs, their influence and contributions.
- New Government as a whole.
- Leaders – decision-makers, and the results of those decisions.
- Christian MPs and their roles/contribution to Government.
- New or changed policies and legislation.
- Changes to pre-election “promises”

Let us pray for those in authority over us, so that we may lead a *quiet and peaceable* life in all *godliness and dignity*. **This is right and pleasing to God!**

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