



1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

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## OUR PURPOSE

### Objectives

**Meet You at the Polls** is driven by two overarching objectives.

**First**, we seek to gather together as the Body of Christ in order to intercede with God on behalf of our country, to worship Jesus Christ our King and to ask the Holy Spirit to fill His Church and awaken our fellow citizens.

**And second**, we wish to encourage God's people to perform their biblical role in being salt and light in our nation; and to fulfill their civic responsibility to vote for, pray for and support righteous men and women who seek public office or serve in that capacity. By *righteous*, we mean those who would seek to promote and defend the principles and values found in God's Word, the Holy Bible.

### Results

In pursuing these objectives, we pray that the following results might be achieved:

- That a groundswell of prayer would rise up to heaven on behalf of our country.
- That the Church would be unified and strengthened.
- That racial divisions would be healed through love, understanding and the pursuit of a common goal.
- That our God-fearing politicians would be encouraged.
- That the Body of Christ would be moved to vote on a biblical basis.
- That devoted Christ-followers would seek public office.
- That the world would see multitudes of godly Americans who care enough about our society to get involved.
- That God would bring revival to His Church, awakening to our country and healing to our land!

## Our Mandate

We believe that there are two authoritative standards which enumerate our rights and dictate our responsibilities: the Bible, and America's founding documents. These standards apply based on our positional role as ***dual citizens***.

As children of the most high God and joint heirs with Christ, we are first and foremost **citizens of the Kingdom of God**.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household. – Ephesians 2:19

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. – Philippians 3:20

As citizens of heaven, we are ruled by the Word of God, that is, the Bible. His Word is authoritative in our lives, and takes precedent over every other law, teaching, custom and tradition.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God has called the Church to pray for our rulers, both for their benefit and the good of society.

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties, prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. – 1 Timothy 2:1-4

As **citizens of the United States of America**, we are governed by laws rooted in our foundational documents; namely, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution (including the Bill of Rights and succeeding Constitutional amendments).

The *Declaration of Independence* lays out the moral and practical basis for the American revolution and argues in favor of a representative form of government. These statements are supported by appealing to a higher law established by our Creator.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that *they are endowed by their Creator* with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. (emphasis added)

The *Constitution* presents the foundational structure and law of our republic (the mechanics, if you will). As described in that document, our government flows from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

*We the People* of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. – Preamble (emphasis added)

The *Bill of Rights* was added to the Constitution in order to clearly enumerate rights that were of such importance that it was thought necessary to codify them in law so as to serve as an inviolate restraint to the powers of the federal government. It is interesting to note what the framers decided to include in the First Amendment, and the order in which those rights appear:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. – Amendment 1

## **The Separation of Church and State**

Though it comes as a surprise to most people, the phrase, "separation of church and state" does not appear in our founding documents. It actually comes from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists on Jan 1, 1802. In it, he stated:

"Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church & State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties."

In quoting the First Amendment, Jefferson emphasized that the "wall of separation" prevented the state from establishing a religion and from restricting citizens from practicing their own faith tradition. He did *not* indicate that persons of faith were to be prohibited from participating in the political process, nor did he suggest that government was prohibited from recognizing and appealing to the Creator. Indeed, even a casual look at the writings of our founders, the inscriptions on our public buildings and monuments, the prayers offered up by our elected leaders and even the coins and bills in circulation today all attest to the fact that our nation was founded on a belief in God and an absolute dependence upon His providence.

## **Based on the Bible and America's founding documents, we believe that . . .**

- God-fearing people in our nation are called to be leaders in our communities and participants in the political process.
- The American Church should be less concerned with being politically correct, and more concerned with being biblically correct.
- The Body of Christ needs to put aside our racial differences and unite on behalf of our Father in heaven who sets up kings and authorities upon the earth.
- Our spiritual leaders need to reclaim their God-appointed duty (and exercise their Constitutional right) to speak the FULL measure of God's truth to their congregations.

Though **MYATP** prayer meetings are apolitical, the fact remains that there are a number of issues we regard as moral that others may consider to be political. And in a sense they are correct: any moral issue that a society attempts to govern – by definition – becomes political.

Issues that were universally agreed upon in the past had no political element; they were simply understood as undeniable truths. Today, however, virtually everything has become political to one degree or another. The issue of gay marriage was culturally abhorrent throughout most eras and societies; only in the last few years has it become a political issue.

So when we say that **MYATP** is not political, we aren't talking about values, morals and faith. We are talking about political parties and candidates. That being said, parties and candidates adopt and promote planks and policies that address moral issues. This in turn means that the things we believe and pray for will generally be supported or opposed by political parties, candidates and elected officials. Therefore, we will humbly pray that God would strengthen those who do right, and enlighten (or remove) those who do wrong.

We further recognize that there are a number of churches that have abandoned traditional biblical precepts concerning right and wrong in the interest of accommodating those who have chosen to pursue unbiblical activities or lifestyles. Members of these churches and denominations will not see eye-to-eye with us on some of the things we pray for. Though they are welcome to attend our prayer gatherings, we will nevertheless pray through all of the prayer points established for each meeting.

We gather to please God, not man. He is much happier with ten believers praying based on His revealed truth than He is with 1,000 persons praying based upon their own human understanding. God has always worked through the remnant, the faithful few. Ultimately, the number of flagpoles manned and the number of people praying at those flagpoles is unimportant; we are trusting God to bring the right people to the movement – those prayer warriors who are plugged in to the Holy Spirit and who can effectively move the hand of God.