

Part One

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and 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

A NATION OUT OF CONTROL

Despite the wonderful birthright Americans have inherited through simple citizenship, our nation is spinning out of control.

An automobile will barrel forward under its own momentum even when it runs out of gas, especially when traveling in a downhill direction. Will we quietly watch in fear from the periphery as our civilization careens out of control, declaring, “The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord”? (See Job 1:21.) Or will we, the Church—once called the Salt and Light of the world—jump into action before it is too late?

THE ASSAULT AGAINST PRAYER

Our culture is a vehicle which in the past was maintained, adjusted, realigned, and retrofitted to better meet the needs of the growing American family. The energy that powered this massive machine of human conveyance was the high-octane fuel called prayer. However, it is no secret that prayer, banished from

public schools and events, has been undergoing continuous attack for the last several decades. An ever-increasing assault against the legitimacy of prayer invades American consciousness everywhere through a plethora of media, including the 24/7 portrayal of praying people as dangerous reactionaries, narrow-minded buffoons, or simpletons. Like bread dough pummeled in the hands of the baker, popular thought is being reshaped into a loaf strangely foreign to those who were home-fed on the whole grains of liberty.

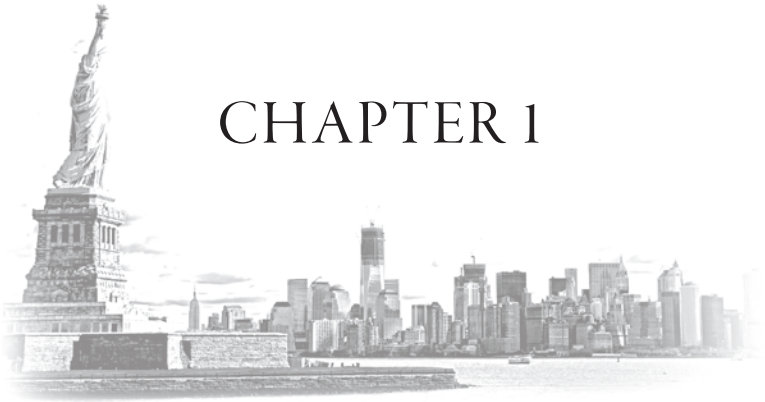
PUMPS SITTING IDLE

As Americans embrace the media's depiction of faithful Christians and Jews, it is no wonder that this powerful fuel is being pumped less and less into our cultural vehicle. Many shun God-ward communication as archaic and counteractive to the evolution of human enlightenment. Others, even in Christendom, often experience awkward self-consciousness when entering into prayer. And as pit stops for prayer fuel grow fewer and farther between, our vehicle is out of gas. Rocketing downhill on fumes at breakneck speed, our nation is being blindly steered by those who are drunk with self-importance and hatred of Judeo-Christian values.

OUR DILEMMA

At this dire hour, what will we do? Will we cower in fear in our homes and churches, allowing our love to grow cold and our faith to grow weak? Will we embrace the ways of our culture, discarding conviction and the Word of God? Will we throw up our hands in surrender, believing that the growing evil is God's plan for our time and stand in silent complacency as our nation hurtles toward annihilation? Or will we spend and be spent in tears, prayer, and obedience to the Holy Spirit and cry out on behalf of a nation that has lost her way? Boldly, in the face of raging societal decay, God's Word declares, "*First of all, PRAY.*"

Anyone who leaps into action, risking life and personal safety to capture a runaway vehicle, forcing it to a screeching halt, is called a hero. Are *you* that heroic one, unwilling to remain a passive witness to the impending collision of our culture? If so, the key to regaining the driver's seat and reversing inevitable calamity is found in the Word of God. *First of all, PRAY.*



CHAPTER 1

First of All, Pray

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men...” 1 Timothy 2:1

FIRST OF ALL, THEN, I URGE

First things first! To begin any endeavor, you need to set clear priorities. The top priority in Jesus’ economy, according to the Word of God, is to *pray*. For any society to function well, the first priority is prayer. So it stands to reason that in *your* life, prayer must be Number One as well!

To Purchase the Book visit:
www.firstofallpray.com