

How can citizens promote honest and fair government?



Sep 24 2020

Hymn. 442

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
 I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
 Thou my great Father and I Thy true son,
 Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise,
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
 Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
 High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
 Heart of my own heart whatever befall,
 Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

-  1 Timothy – New International Reader’s Version
- (1Ti 2:1 NIV) First, I want all of you to pray for everyone. Ask God to bless them. Give thanks for them.
- (1Ti 2:2 NIV) Pray for kings. Pray for all who are in authority. Pray that we will live peaceful and quiet lives. And pray that we will be godly and holy.
- (1Ti 2:3 NIV) That is good. It pleases God our Savior.

(1Ti 2:4 Nlrv) He wants everyone to be saved. He wants them to come to know the truth.

SH 1:1

1 **T**HE prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the
 sick is an absolute faith that all things are
 3 possible to God, — a spiritual understanding of Him,
 an unselfed love. Regardless of what another may say
 or think on this subject, I speak from experience.
 6 Prayer, watching, and working, combined with self-im-
 molation, are God's gracious means for accomplishing
 whatever has been successfully done for the Christian-
 9 ization and health of mankind.

SH 192:21–31

21 Your in-
 fluence for good depends upon the weight you throw into
 the right scale. The good you do and embody gives you
 24 the only power obtainable. Evil is not power. It is a
 mockery of strength, which ere long betrays its weakness
 and falls, never to rise.

27 We walk in the footsteps of Truth and Love by follow-
 ing the example of our Master in the understanding of
 divine metaphysics. Christianity is the basis of true heal-
 30 ing. Whatever holds human thought in line with unselfed
 love, receives directly the divine power.

 Resuming where we left off last Wednesday with Eutychus and Paul

(Act 20:11 Nlrv) Then Paul went upstairs again. He broke bread and ate with them. He kept on talking until daylight. Then he left.

(Act 20:12 Nlrv) The people took the young man home. They were greatly comforted because he was alive.

(Act 20:13 NIrV) We went on ahead to the ship. We sailed for Assos. ...

(Act 20:16 NIrV) Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus. He didn't want to spend time in Asia Minor. He was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem. If he could, he wanted to be there by the day of Pentecost.

(Act 20:17 NIrV) From Miletus, Paul sent for the elders of the church at Ephesus.

(Act 20:18 NIrV) When they arrived, he spoke to them. "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you," he said. "From the first day I came into Asia Minor,

(Act 20:19 NIrV) I was free of pride. I served the Lord with tears. I served him even though I was greatly tested by the evil plans of the Jews.

(Act 20:20 NIrV) You know I haven't let anyone keep me from preaching anything that would be helpful to you. I have taught you in public and from house to house.

(Act 20:21 NIrV) I have told both Jews and Greeks that they must turn away from their sins to God. They must have faith in our Lord Jesus.

(Act 20:22 NIrV) "Now I am going to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit compels me. I don't know what will happen to me there.

(Act 20:23 NIrV) I only know that in every city the Spirit warns me. He tells me that I will face prison and suffering.

(Act 20:24 NIrV) But my life means nothing to me. I only want to finish the race. I want to complete the work the Lord Jesus has given me. He wants me to give witness to others about the good news of God's grace.

(Act 20:25 NIrV) "I have spent time with you preaching about the kingdom. I know that none of you will ever see me again.

(Act 20:26 NIrV) So I tell you today that I am not guilty if anyone has not believed.

(Act 20:27 NIrV) I haven't let anyone keep me from telling you everything God wants you to do.

(Act 20:28 NIrV) "Keep watch over yourselves. Keep watch over all the believers. The Holy Spirit has made you leaders over them.

Be shepherds of God's church. He bought it with his own blood.
 (Act 20:29 NIrV) "I know that after I leave, wild wolves will come in among you. They won't spare any of the sheep.
 (Act 20:30 NIrV) Even men from your own people will rise up and twist the truth. They want to get the believers to follow them.
 (Act 20:31 NIrV) So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning you. Night and day I warned each of you with tears.
 (Act 20:32 NIrV) "Now I commit you to God's care. I commit you to the word of his grace. It can build you up. Then you will share in what God plans to give all his people.
 (Act 20:33 NIrV) I haven't longed for anyone's silver or gold or clothing.
 (Act 20:34 NIrV) You yourselves know that I have used my own hands to meet my needs. I have also met the needs of my companions.
 (Act 20:35 NIrV) In everything I did, I showed you that we must work hard and help the weak. We must remember the words of the Lord Jesus. He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
 (Act 20:36 NIrV) When Paul had said this, he got down on his knees with all of them and prayed.
 (Act 20:37 NIrV) They all cried as they hugged and kissed him.
 (Act 20:38 NIrV) What hurt them the most was that he had said they would never see his face again. Then they went with him to the ship.

SH 227:21

21 Christian Science raises the standard of liberty and
 cries: "Follow me! Escape from the bondage of sick-
 24 ness, sin, and death!" Jesus marked out the
 way. Citizens of the world, accept the "glori-
 ous liberty of the children of God," and be free! This
 is your divine right. The illusion of material sense, not
 27 divine law, has bound you, entangled your free limbs,
 crippled your capacities, enfeebled your body, and de-

Standard
of liberty

faced the tablet of your being.

Ephesians

(Eph 1:1 Nlrv) I, Paul, am writing this letter. I am an apostle of Christ Jesus just as God planned. I am sending this letter to you, God's people in Ephesus. Because you belong to Christ Jesus, you are faithful.

(Eph 1:2 Nlrv) May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

(Eph 1:3 Nlrv) Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Those blessings come from the heavenly world. They belong to us because we belong to Christ.

...

(Eph 1:7 Nlrv) We have been set free because of what Christ has done. ...

(Eph 1:10 Nlrv) It will all come about when history has been completed. God will then bring together all things in heaven and on earth under one ruler. The ruler is Christ.

(Eph 1:11 Nlrv) We were also chosen to belong to him. God decided to choose us long ago in keeping with his plan. He works out everything to fit his plan and purpose.

(Eph 1:14 Nlrv) The Spirit marks us as God's own. We can now be sure that someday we will receive all that God has promised. That will happen after God sets all of his people completely free. All of those things will bring praise to his glory.

(Eph 1:18 Nlrv) I also pray that your mind might see more clearly. Then you will know the hope God has chosen you to receive. You will know that the things God's people will receive are rich and glorious.

(Eph 1:19 Nlrv) And you will know his great power. It can't be compared with anything else. It is at work for us who believe. It is like the mighty strength

(Eph 1:20 Nlrv) God showed when he raised Christ from the dead. He seated him at his right hand in his heavenly kingdom.

(Eph 1:21 Nlrv) There Christ sits far above all who rule and have authority. He also sits far above all powers and kings. He is above every title that can be given in this world and in the world to come.

(Eph 1:22 Nlrv) God placed all things under Christ's rule. ...

(Eph 2:14 Nlrv) Christ himself is our peace. He has made Jews and non-Jews into one group of people. He has destroyed the hatred that was like a wall between us.

(Eph 2:15 Nlrv) Through his body on the cross, Christ put an end to the law with all its commands and rules. He wanted to create one new group of people out of the two. He wanted to make peace between them.

(Eph 2:16 Nlrv) He planned to bring both of them as one body back to God because of the cross. Christ put their hatred to death on that cross.

(Eph 2:17 Nlrv) He came and preached peace to you who were far away. He also preached peace to those who were near.

(Eph 2:18 Nlrv) Through Christ we both come to the Father by the power of one Holy Spirit.

(Eph 2:19 Nlrv) So you are no longer strangers and outsiders. You are citizens together with God's people. You are members of God's family.

(Eph 6:10 Nlrv) Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power.

(Eph 6:11 Nlrv) Put on all of God's armor. Then you can stand firm against the devil's evil plans.

(Eph 6:12 Nlrv) Our fight is not against human beings. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. ...

(Eph 6:14 Nlrv) So stand firm. Put the belt of truth around your waist. Put the armor of godliness on your chest....

(Eph 6:18 Nlrv) At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people.

When infringing some supposed law, you say that
 9 there is danger. This fear is the danger and induces the
 physical effects. We cannot in reality suffer
 from breaking anything except a moral or
 12 spiritual law. The so-called laws of mortal belief are
 destroyed by the understanding that Soul is immortal,
 and that mortal mind cannot legislate the times, periods,
 15 and types of disease, with which mortals die. God is the
 lawmaker, but He is not the author of barbarous codes.
 In infinite Life and Love there is no sickness, sin, nor
 18 death, and the Scriptures declare that we live, move, and
 have our being in the infinite God.

No laws
of matter

Think less of the enactments of mortal mind, and you
 21 will sooner grasp man's God-given dominion.

SH 571:10–21

Who is telling mankind
 of the foe in ambush? Is the informer one who sees the
 12 foe? If so, listen and be wise. Escape from evil, and
 designate those as unfaithful stewards who have seen the
 danger and yet have given no warning.

At all times and under all circumstances, overcome
 15 evil with good. Know thyself, and God will supply
 the wisdom and the occasion for a victory
 18 over evil. Clad in the panoply of Love,
 human hatred cannot reach you. The cement of a
 higher humanity will unite all interests in the one
 21 divinity.

The armor
of divinity

SH 447:12–14, 20–27

12 Ignorance, subtlety, or false charity does not for-
 ever conceal error; evil will in time disclose and pun-
 ish itself.

Expose and denounce the claims of

21 evil and disease in all their forms, but realize no
 reality in them. A sinner is not reformed merely
 by assuring him that he cannot be a sinner because
 24 there is no sin. To put down the claim of sin,
 you must detect it, remove the mask, point out the
 illusion, and thus get the victory over sin and so prove
 27 its unreality.

Ecclesiastes

(Ecc 9:11 NIrV) Here's something else I've seen on this earth. Races aren't always won by those who run fast. Battles aren't always won by those who are strong. Wise people don't always have plenty of food. Clever people aren't always wealthy. Those who have learned a lot aren't always favored. God controls the timing of every event. He also controls how things turn out.

(Ecc 9:12 NIrV) A man doesn't know when trouble will come to him. Fish are caught in nets. Birds are taken in traps. And people are trapped by hard times that come when they don't expect them.

(Ecc 9:13 NIrV) Here's something else I saw on this earth. I saw an example of wisdom that touched me deeply.

(Ecc 9:14 NIrV) There was once a small city. Only a few people lived there. A powerful king attacked it. He brought in war machines all around it.

(Ecc 9:15 NIrV) A certain man lived in that city. He was poor but wise. He used his wisdom to save the city. But no one remembered that poor man.

(Ecc 9:16 NIrV) So I said, "It's better to be wise than to be powerful." But people looked down on the poor man's wisdom. No one paid any attention to what he said.

(Ecc 9:17 NIrV) People should listen to the quiet words of those who are wise. That's better than paying attention to the shouts of a ruler of foolish people.

SH 58:2

Unity of

3 spirit gives new pinions to joy, or else joy's drooping

wings trail in dust.

SH 254:6–8, 10

6 God requires perfection,
but not until the battle between Spirit and flesh is fought
and the victory won.

When we wait
patiently on God and seek Truth righteously, He directs
12 our path. Imperfect mortals grasp the ultimate of spir-
itual perfection slowly; but to *begin* aright and to con-
tinue the strife of demonstrating the great problem of
15 being, is doing much.

SH 55:21–22

21 The promises will be ful-
filled.

Hymn. 382

What is thy birthright, man,
Child of the perfect One;
What is thy Father's plan
For His beloved son?

Thou art Truth's honest child,
Of pure and sinless heart;
Thou treadest undefiled
In Christly paths apart.

Vain dreams shall disappear
As Truth dawns on the sight;
The phantoms of thy fear
Shall flee before the light.

Take then the sacred rod;

Thou art not error's thrall;
 Thou hast the gift of God—
 Dominion over all.

Hymn. 499

I am the Lord, there is none else;
 There is no God beside Me.
 I girded thee, I girded thee,
 Though thou hast not even known Me.
 But know that from the rising sun
 To the west there is none beside Me,
 For I am the Lord, there is none else;
 There is no God beside Me.

I am the Truth, there is none else;
 There is no Truth beside Me.
 Infinite light, bountiful, bright,
 Is ever present to guide thee.
 Beloved and free, eternally,
 Perfect peace and joy I provide thee,
 For I am the Lord, there is none else;
 There is no God beside Me.

Innocent one, sinless and pure,
 Nothing can ever divide thee.
 Governed by Love, you are secure;
 I am forever beside thee.
 So rest and know wher-e'er you go,
 Home and heaven cannot be denied thee,
 For I am the Lord, there is none else;
 There is no God beside Me.

