

A Proper Patriotism

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I. Introduction.

- A. Subject: prayer and fasting.
- B. These are powers that are hardly used in the church today. (II Chronicles 7:14)

II. Prayer. (I Timothy 2)

- A. The emphasis that ought to be made in meeting with the church: they are to give themselves first to prayer in importance.
- B. Men need to be saved in order to come to knowledge of the truth—what is wrong is the profound ignorance of man.
- C. God desires that all men know about salvation—God withholds His avenging justice because He wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- D. Quiet and peace is what allows the gospel to spread—God wants peaceful communities open to the expression of the gospel.
- E. Prayers of Christians enable a community to live peaceably and godly.
- F. Four kinds of prayer.
 - 1. Supplication for help.
 - 2. Prayers in general principle for things.
 - 3. Prayers of expression involving an intimacy with God.
 - 4. Thanksgiving—gratitude.
- G. The key to peace is in the hands of praying Christians.

III. Fasting.

- A. The purpose of fasting is that it gets us ready, not God. (Psalm 35, 69)
- B. Take time out for fasting for our nation's needs.

Application questions:

- 1. How does prayer pave the way for salvation?

2. What would you say to someone who says fasting helps us earn God's favor?

3. Memorize II Chronicles 7:14 and write it below. How does this verse convey the importance of prayer?
