



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

October 2012

## Letters of Faith

**“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”  
(1 Timothy 2:1-3 NASB)**

**“...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects,  
bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...”  
(Colossians 1:10)**

Dearly Beloved,

These two Scriptures express God’s heart toward our duty and privilege to pray for our duly elected political leaders and God’s desire for the character of those elected and appointed to leadership to be pleasing to Him. In a previous letter, we shared how we came to grips with this admonition to pray for our leadership even when we discern that it is ungodly, dishonest, anti-Christian, and bearing the fruit of animosity, anger, divisiveness, and even anarchy. We pray that helped you as much as it did us, because we are increasingly being Holy Spirit “pressured to pray!”

With permission, I am quoting and paraphrasing much in this letter from the Fall 2012, issue of *ROD and STAFF*, published quarterly by Rev. Rodney G. Lensch, Director of Rod & Staff Ministries, 2625 N. 100th Avenue, Omaha, NB 68134. Many of you in the Midwest fondly remember and honor him as one of the main leaders in the early days of the Charismatic renewal. We encourage you to send him an offering and get on his distribution list because he is one of the strongest and most Word-grounded Apostles writing to the Church these days.

Rod states in his Fall epistle that he recognizes the 2012 election is apt to be a very close race and that the number of professing Christians who actually go the polls — and even more importantly how they vote — will likely determine who wins this election which is undoubtedly the most crucial one in a hundred years. But before I go any further, please don’t think for a moment that because our last few letters are heavy on political matters we have deserted our basic calling to teach “...the unfathomable riches of Christ...” (Eph.3:8). Absolutely not! And by God’s grace, we never will! But these truly are times that test our souls and test the depths of our commitment to the activating Lordship of Jesus and His Word in our lives.

Regarding the role of Pastor/Teacher in the election process in this, our God-blessed country, Dr. D. James Kennedy wrote that prior to the War of Independence: “The clergy (called the Black regiment because of their black robes) preached resounding sermons that resonated throughout New England about the evils of tyranny and the importance of liberty. These men set the stage for the liberty of America that has spread around the world.”

Beloved, they did not hesitate to become political activists in the pulpit when the subject was

the Christian fundamental foundation of the new and free and God-based governance for this burgeoning country. Thus the rest of our basic calling scripture is very pertinent and we are determined to fulfill it as best as we can in these letters: **“...and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.”** (Eph. 3:9-10 emphasis ours)

The wisdom of God as it pertains to all things — especially at this time to all things political — is to be made known through the Church to the rulers and authorities: to the rulers in this great country, and through the Church in united prayer to the authorities in the heavenlies. That is our application of these strong words of St. Paul. Of course Paul was referring to the Christ who had been hidden in God until Jesus came to earth, and who he was so prominently called to preach to the world. But I sense a clear application of these Scriptures to our political situation right now and think we, the Church, must step forward to lead.

Beloved, there are real Biblical values established for electing a president who is a righteous man of integrity. Old Testament Israel thrived when its kings sought to please the Lord even as David declared: **“The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me, ‘He who rules over men righteously, who rules in the fear of God, is as the light of the morning when the sun rises, a morning without clouds, when the tender grass springs out of the earth, through sunshine after rain.’”** (2 Sam. 23:3-4) Such a poetic expression of peace and the blessings from heaven (the rain) upon the earth when rulers are righteous!

A more pragmatic expression of the effects of leadership on a people is Proverbs 28:15 that declares: **“Like a roaring lion and a rushing bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.”** When evil kings ruled Israel, national apostasy followed and also the judgments of God. Prov. 29:2 says: **“When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan.”** And Prov. 29:12 declares: **“If a ruler pays attention to falsehood, all his ministers become wicked.”** Please note that when the word “wicked” is used in Proverbs, it primarily means that a person has no place in their heart or their life for God rather than necessarily just doing wicked things.

We picked these scriptures because they are so appropriate to today’s political situation in our country. We don’t think it too harsh to observe that under our present President, most of our people are groaning over continuing high gas prices, lost employment, ever-increasing food costs, accelerating immorality, burgeoning abortion, staggering national debt, and a tangible fear that our country will not keep covenant with Israel, God’s covenant people.

Last month we challenged you to make a fruit-test of next month’s candidates. In Rod Lensch’s Fall Letter he shares some inspired words on that subject. “In 1823 Noah Webster had this to say when selecting men for office, ‘Let principle be your guide. Regard not the particular sect or denomination of the candidate — look to his character. The Scriptures teach that rulers should be men who rule in the fear of God, able men, men of truth... How can he [a voter] deliberately condone and facilitate what God hates and condemns and is contrary to the Ten Commandments?’” God confirms this in His Word through David, **“Can a corrupt throne be allied with You — one that brings on misery by its decrees?”** (Psa. 94:20)

Rod then asks and answers a very cogent and timely question: “How does the Devil succeed in deceiving a president and a whole nation? Because **“...the god of this world [the Devil] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”** (2 Cor. 4:4) In Scripture, the meaning of “the world” is man organizing himself apart from God but with the influence of the Devil. Consequently,

**“...whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”** (James 4:4)  
As a result of the Devil’s deceptions, much of American society as it seeks moral guidance is following the changing culture and the spirit of the age rather than the changeless Christ. It's the world and not the Word that seems to have the last word. How absolutely sad in so-called Christian America.”

Then with divine boldness, Rod concludes this portion of his remarks with the following:  
*“So, does President Obama pass the fruit-test of true faith? I would categorically say no. How could anyone who is truly born again, who knows Jesus as Savior and Lord and who honors and believes the Bible to be the revealed Word of God condone abortion on demand and same-sex marriage? Jesus had it right: ‘...by their fruit you will know them.’”*

Beloved, we totally agree! We discern that this coming election at all levels is not just going to decide between Democrat and Republican. It is predominantly a choice between the Devil and the Christ! Please make your righteous choice known loud and wide and stand together in prayer, truly meaning it when we say God Bless America.

Love, with holy hopeful hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'P' and 'G'.