

# BSLC News

June-July 2018

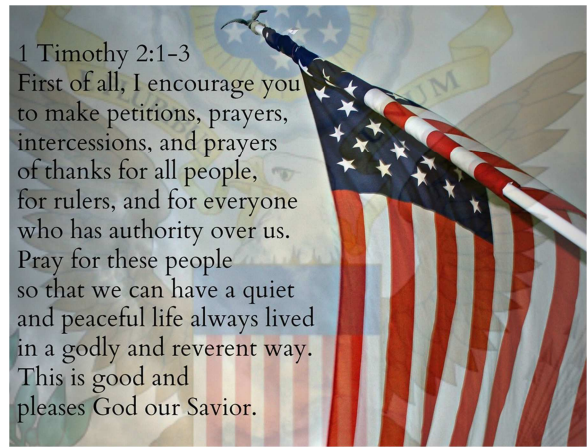
## AGENTS OF CHANGE

Every day—literally every day—when I turn on the news at 7:00 a.m., I find myself disturbed and unsettled. And it has to do with leadership at every level. I am disturbed by the lack of integrity exhibited by those who have risen to the top echelons of government or of the failings of leaders in other industries which affect millions of people. I am disturbed by the indiscretions that sully the reputation of our nation and call into question the decisions that have been made by its leaders. I am disturbed by the way news agencies seem intent on manipulating public opinion or in creating headlines to juice up the ratings. I am disturbed by world unrest—by moral recklessness—by stories of the fiery rage that enslaves the hearts of those who have lost hope.

I bet you're disturbed too. It has become all too clear that, hard as we try to improve and advance society, the core of sinfulness continues to wreak havoc among us and can lead to the most awful places. So how does a Christian respond? What is our role amid the chaos and crises that surround us on all sides? Three simple things come to mind for me:

1) Remember who you are. St. Peter says, *"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience..."* (1 Peter 3:5-16)

You are nothing less than a child of God. You have been redeemed by the Savior of the world. He has come to bring forgiveness, strength, and guidance to you. And He promises you a future in glory free of sin, sickness, and suffering.



That makes you an agent of change. You are His ambassador—His light. The Christian does his best work as a citizen when he offers to people in darkness a reason to live—a reason to love—a reason for hope. That hope is found in Christ and in Him alone. There are no substitutes. And so we are called to shine with His word and to live as His people in the midst of a corrupt generation.

2) Pray fervently. St. Paul writes: *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* (1 Tim. 2:1-3)

The Lord urges us to be on our knees on behalf of our leaders—to lift them up as they make weighty decisions, to pray for their actions and attitudes, to seek God's guidance and wisdom for them as they do their work. When appropriate, we may also pray for justice to be done, for change to be enacted, for people to rise up to the challenges that face us with godly actions that lead toward justice and peace.

Here again you are an agent of change. God promises to hear and respond to our prayers. How He will work these things out is up to His Divine will; we are merely called to turn our eyes to the

heavens even as we consider the things of the earth.

3) Live faithfully and generously. Too often God's people get caught up in the comforts of this age and bask in our blessings without thought to our greater responsibility to the world around us. But there is so much work to be done that we dare never become complacent about the needs of others. The Psalmist writes: *"Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. ...Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely he will never be shaken."* (Psalm 112:1,5-6)

Here again you are an agent of change. Every little action done in service to God and others somehow brings blessing. Imagine a world where everyone dedicated themselves to regular acts of compassion.

Tomorrow, when you tune in to the morning news ask yourself, "How can I shine with Christ's light today? What can I do to impact this vast society in which God has placed me?" And then, thankful for the God who saved you, go forth with a mind to bring about the little changes that can ultimately reshape the news for you.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Hillenbrand