

Genesis 47:1-31

The Church Blesses the State

Introduction:

When we think of leaders of nations we all have our various opinions whether they are righteous or unrighteous or somewhere in between. We do know that God is Sovereign and God the Father has placed His Son, Jesus as King over all the nations. The nations may rage against King Jesus but He who is in the heavens laughs at their utter foolishness. Psalm 2

When it comes to the church's relationship to the state we see at times the state simply tolerates the church's Christian doctrine and at other times the state may bless the church giving the church freedom to worship and carry out its commission to teach the gospel. This why Paul instructs the church to pray for our present leaders in order that the church "may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity;" also we must keep in mind that God our Savior, desires all men to be saved, that is, (all kinds of men in various positions of authority) "to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."

Obviously it is not a universal salvation, that is, for everybody to be saved because the Biblical facts are that not everyone will be saved.

Let us pray for leaders who will bless the church as Pharaoh did in Joseph's day.

I. The Necessity of Work

A. Joseph's respect for Pharaoh and his brothers – Rom. 13:1; Matt. 20:33; Heb. 2:11

B. Working with our hands and mind:

1. God created us to work in our home, field and place of industry whether manual or mental.
2. The apostle Paul's clear teaching; if you don't work you have no right to eat – II Thess. 3:8-15
3. The danger of idleness:
 - a. Will ultimately suffer hunger – Prov. 19:15
 - b. Will not have success – Eccl. 11:6
 - c. Will produce gossips and busybodies – I Tim. 5:13; Prov. 22:29

C. Joseph's respect for his father – v.7-12

1. Joseph introduces his father to Pharaoh – Lev. 19:32; Heb. 11:13; Eph. 2:19
2. Blessing passed on to Pharaoh – v. 7,10; Psa. 105:15; 37:19

II. The Wisdom of Joseph

A. Economic policy – v.13-26

1. Bartering v.16,17; Gal. 5:1
2. Slaves – v. 18-21; Lamentations 4:9; Prov. 30:8,9

Joseph's Preparation for his Father's death: I Cor. 15:56

1. Jacob's request is to be buried in Canaan – v. 29, 30 (Heb. 11:11-16; Rev. 21:1.2)
2. Jacob's request is granted – v.31
3. Jacob's worship of God – Turn to Psalm 22:27-31 (a worship Psalm)

