



PRAYING FOR EXTREMISTS

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“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” *Romans 10:1-4 ESV*

God is a specialist in turning extremists into his followers. Paul himself was on a mission to destroy Christians in Syria when the Lord Jesus appeared to him and transformed him. In Romans, he prays for Jewish people; his words are equally applicable to those who would enforce Shariah law on others in this generation.

Romans 12 is geared towards individual and Church responses as we engage with an often-evil world. Romans 13 looks at the State’s responsibilities.

Let’s pray for

- nations and states to be given strength to resist evil in all its forms.
- Christians and Churches to know the Lord’s strength *not* to retaliate and to ‘overcome evil with good’ (Romans 12:21). This was the experience and witness of Egyptian Christians in the summer of 2013, when so many churches were burned by their opponents after the removal of President Mursi. Instead of retaliating, they prayed and forgave – and many people noticed.
- God to reveal the truth of what is going on and remove the blindness that Satan has placed over minds and hearts.
- extremists to be humbled as Paul was on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-19), to encounter deep conviction of sin and wrong-doing in God’s eyes, and to hear and understand the ultimate sacrifice made by Christ for all who repent and turn to him.
- the debate among Muslims and their scholars about what Islam really says and what is acceptable practice to open up.
- Muslims to find what they’re looking and longing for in the person, life, death and resurrection of Christ, who is greater than a prophet.

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Version 3: August 2015