



Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshipping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

Canada Day

By Alison Vanderwoude

What does Canada Day mean to you? It is an anticipated holiday (as are they all) and it is a day to relax from our usual jobs. It marks the end of the school season and the start of the summer vacation for students and teachers. For some people it is the first long weekend for camping and cottaging. Everyone has a chance to rest and spend time with family and friends. Canada Day marks the birthday of this great and beautiful country. During this holiday, there are celebrations all over the country, usually ending in a grand display of fireworks.

Do we ever think about Canada Day and what it means from a Christian standpoint? It is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter. It is a national day, a day to think about our country and our government. When our lives are peaceful and quiet, we generally do not think about the Canadian government. In 2 Timothy 2: 1-2, Paul instructs Timothy, "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."

Sometimes we forget to pray for those in authority because we often take our government for granted. It is easier to remember to pray when there are problems. But we should pray for the government. We are thankful, this Canada Day, and every day, that we can pray to, worship, sing about, and teach others about God in complete freedom. In Paul and Timothy's time, they were not so free to worship God. Nero, a notoriously cruel leader, was Emperor, and many Christians experienced harsh persecution and painful deaths. And yet, Paul urged Timothy to pray for all kings and those in authority. Quite remarkable.

As well as praying for our government, we must have respect and submit to those in authority. Romans 13:1 says, "Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." God asks for submission from us, unless the government forces us to disobey God. We must be responsible citizens, as well as being responsible Christians.

Let us, then, this Canada Day, sing with a joyous and prayerful heart: "God keep our land, glorious and free. O Canada we stand on guard for thee!"

Alison Vanderwoude is a member of Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

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