

FIRST OF ALL

1 TIMOTHY 2

Text: 1 Timothy 2:1

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I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Introduction:

1st Timothy is the first of three letters written by Paul to young preachers. These letters, called the Pastoral Epistles, are Paul's attempt at instructing and encouraging these young men of God. In these letters, we can find a great amount of material related to behavior in the church and also governing worship. Paul felt compelled to write these letters because Timothy and Titus were serving the Lord in a society that was very secular and openly opposed to the preaching of salvation through Jesus Christ and the lifestyle of separation and holiness that accompanies that salvation.

It seems to me that we live in a society that is growing more and more anti-Christian by the day. In this society, many declare right wrong and wrong right. America is no longer a Christian nation, but has

become a pagan nation where men live as if God were dead or irrelevant. We can complain all we want to about the situation we are in here in America, but this is where we are, and we have been placed here by the providence of Almighty God. As a result, we need to know how to live for God in a pagan world.

Paul, in these verses, deals with one area where we can all impact our church. I am talking about the area of prayer. Tonight, I want us to consider together the matter of Christ-like praying in a pagan world. Notice three important divisions in these Verses.

1. GOD'S DEMAND (VS 1-2)

1 Tim. 2:1-2

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; [2] For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

A. The Elevation Of Prayer - First of all

1. Paul tells us our first priority is that of prayer.
2. It seems that we have time for every pursuit and activity, except that which is deemed most important.

Illustration: The Power of Prayer

- God has promised to hear prayer.

Jeremiah 33:3

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

- God has promised to answer prayer

John 16:23

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

- Prayer is the privilege and power of every believer.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

B. The Elements Of Prayer - Paul list four elements that should be included in our praying.

1. Supplications -Making request. Sharing our felt needs with God.

Philip. 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

2. Prayers -Prayers – This word refers to the act of worship that should accompany prayer. When we pray, we are literally in the presence of God. Therefore, we are to pray in reverence.

3. Intercessions – This word means ‘To fall in with.’ It refers to Christians taking the needs of others before the Lord. Our praying should not be selfish.

4. Giving Of Thanks – When we draw near to God in prayer, our hearts should be filled with gratitude for all He is, all He has done, all He is doing and all He will do. Thanksgiving should not be tacked on to the end of our praying, but it should be a major ingredient in every prayer we pray.

Ephes. 5:18-19

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; [19] Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

C. The Extent of Prayer - We are to pray for all men.

This tells us that there is no one on the face of the earth that should not be prayed for, and that there is no man beyond the influence of godly praying.

D. The Ends Of Prayer - When we pray as we should, the product will be a quietness externally and peacefulness internally. This should produce in us lives of godliness and purity.

2. GOD'S DELIGHT (VS 3)

1 Tim. 2:3

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

A. When we pray after this manner, it pleases the Lord and is a good thing in His sight.

B. God is honored when His people pray, as they should. It reveals faith on our part and it affords God an opportunity to demonstrate His power.

C. God is more honored by our prayers than He is by our protests.

D. Christians pray because they want to please the Lord who saved them from sin! That pleases the Lord.

3. GOD'S DESIRE (VS 4)

A. God's ultimate desire is to see all men saved!

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

B. His means of reaching those He wants to save are those He has already saved.

C. We are to hate sin, but always love the sinner. We love them best by praying for them and lovingly sharing Christ with them.

Close:

Of all the weapons we have at our disposal, in these perilous times prayer is the most effective in changing the world around us. My challenge to you is that you become an effective prayer warrior for the Lord Jesus Christ – James 5:16.

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.