

*Paul's Letter to
the Disciple*



I Timothy

A Call to Prayer

Review

- Timothy's mission:
 - Remain in Ephesus
 - Instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrine, nor pay attention to myths...
- Paul's purpose for writing:
 - Encourage / exhort Timothy
 - Instruction (corporate & personal)



Therefore...

- “First of all, then...”
- Instructions on conduct (3:15)
 - Prayer (2:1-7)
 - Men / Women (2:8-15)
 - Elders (3:1-7)
 - Deacons (3:8-13)
- Correcting false doctrine? (see 4:6; 6:3-5)



1 Tim. 2:1-8

1. The Call to Prayer (1-2)
2. The Reasons for Prayer (3-7)
3. The Practice of Prayer (8)



1. The Call to Prayer

- The Nature of Prayer (1)

- Entreaties – *to lack* -> request

- Prayers – general; talking with God

- Petitions – personal; familiar; boldness

- Thanksgivings – ‘attitude of gratitude’



1. The Call to Prayer

- The Focus of Prayer (2a)

- *On behalf of all men*

- The gospel is for all, so we should pray for all (cf. John 3:16)

- False doctrine -> exclusivity?

- In Ephesians: *one new man!* (2:11-22; 3:6; 4:1-6, 12-13, 16, 25ff.)



1. The Call to Prayer

- The Focus of Prayer (2a)

- *On behalf of kings and **all in authority***

- Local, state, national, international

- *On behalf of, not against!*

- Believers have a responsibility to be model citizens and support gov't (Rom. 13:1-7; cf. Acts 4:19-20; 5:29)



1. The Call to Prayer

- The Results of Prayer (2b)
 - Lead a *tranquil* and *quiet* life
 - *Free from outer and inner turmoil*
 - Gov't should promote peace / order
(Rom. 13:1-5; cf. Acts 19:28-41)



1. The Call to Prayer

- The Results of Prayer (2b)

- Lead a *tranquil* and *quiet* life

- In all godliness - *reverence; piety; the fear of the Lord* (6:3, 11; 2 Pet. 1:5)

- and dignity - *gravity; proper deportment*

- Peace allows us to worship & evangelize freely (e.g. - *Pax Romana*)



2. The Reasons for Prayer

- This is *good* (3)

- *Intrinsically excellent; beautiful; virtuous; useful; honorable; profitable*

- 16x in 1 Timothy (e.g. – 1:8; 3:1; 4:6)

- This is *acceptable* in the sight of God

- *Welcome; pleasing* (see 5:4)



2. The Reasons for Prayer

- In line with God's Desire (4)
 - God *desires all men* to be saved
 - God's offer is for *all* (John 3:16; 12:32)
 - God calls *all* to repent (Acts 17:30-31)
 - But *few* are chosen (Matt. 22:14)
 - And *many* refuse (cf. Rom. 1:18-32)



2. The Reasons for Prayer

- In line with God's Desire (4)
 - God *desires all men* to come to a knowledge of **the truth**
 - Sound doctrine (1 Tim. 4:3; 6:5; 2 Tim. 2:18; 2:25; 3:7-8; **4:1-4**)
 - Necessary for growth (Eph. 4:15)
 - Pattern for our *new self* (Eph. 4:24)



2. The Reasons for Prayer

- In line with Sound Doctrine (5-6)
 - There is [only] one God
 - Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6ff; 45:5, 14, 18ff
 - ...and Father *of all* (Eph. 4:6)
 - The *one God* desires *all men* to be saved, and we should pray to that end



2. The Reasons for Prayer

- In line with Sound Doctrine (5-6)
 - There is [only] one mediator between God and man
 - I.e. – there is only one way for all men to be saved; only one ‘the truth’ for all men to come to know (John 14:6)
 - The God-Man brings God and Man together



2. The Reasons for Prayer

- In line with Sound Doctrine (5-6)
 - There is [only] one mediator
 - *who gave Himself as a ransom for all*
 - *Gave* – voluntarily (Mark 10:45)
 - *Himself* – He didn't just give a ransom -- He *was* the ransom (*life & self*)
 - *For all* – see 2:1, 4



2. The Reasons for Prayer

- In line with Sound Doctrine (5-6)
 - There is [only] one mediator
 - *who gave Himself as a ransom for all*
 - *Ransom – a price paid to redeem (see Lev. 25:47-55; 1 Pet. 1:17-19)*
 - *In-place-of-ransom on-behalf-of all*
 - Unlimited atonement



2. The Reasons for Prayer

- In line with Sound Doctrine (5-6)
 - *The testimony in its own times*
 - Unfolding of God's redemptive plan (cf. *the mystery* - Eph. 3:1-13)
 - Christ came at the right time (Rom. 5:6)
 - Christ's return will be *in its own times*, too (1 Tim. 6:15)



2. The Reasons for Prayer

- In line with Paul's Ministry (7)
 - Appointed to give testimony (see 1:12-17; Eph. 3:1-2)
 - *Preacher – herald* (nature)
 - *Apostle – one sent* (authority)
 - *Teacher of Gentiles* (focus)
 - With sincere faith and accuracy



3. The Practice of Prayer (8)

- Please keep in mind:
 - I did not write this
 - I am simply a messenger
 - There is room for *cultural interpretation*
 - Gal. 3:28 -> *who can be saved*
 - Not *androgyny* – we still have different functions & roles (cf. Eph. 5:22-33)



3. The Practice of Prayer (8)

- Who? *The men*

- The men are to lead in worship

- This is NOT to demean women – it is to call for men to STEP UP

- Adam deferred to Eve (Gen. 3:6, 17)

- Men, take charge (cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-7)

- *Act like Christ* (cf. Eph. 5:25-33)



3. The Practice of Prayer (8)

- Where? *In every place*
 - In every church (cf. 1 Cor. 1:2)
- How? *Lifting up holy hands*
 - Lifting hands – mandated?
 - Holy hands – *unpolluted, spotless – free from sin* (see Ps. 24:3-4; James 4:8)
 - No unconfessed sin (*good conscience*)



3. The Practice of Prayer (8)

- How? *Lifting up holy hands*

- Without wrath

- No inner attitude of ill-will/resentment

- Without dissension

- No outward manifestation of wrath

- Nothing between you and God or others



So What?

- God wants us to pray for *all* men
 - For salvation
 - To know the truth
 - For peace and godliness
 - For God's glory! (2 Cor. 4:15)



So What?

- God wants men to lead
 - In the church
 - In worship / prayer
 - In the home

