

## Introduction

Today's message is titled "Pray for All People". We are looking at 1 Timothy 2. At first glance, I thought this passage was about "How to" *Pray for All People*. God then revealed to me that this is really about "What is keeping us from being able to" *Pray for All People*. The last two years have taken a toll on my prayer life. I believe in prayer and I am always willing to pray with people on the spot when they need it. On my own time, however, I find myself distracted by everything. Does that happen to you? You mean to pray for all people, but you get distracted by life around you? This got me thinking, how bad can those distractions be? For Timothy, apparently they were very bad distractions. Let's look at how God uses Paul to instruct Timothy through these distractions.

## *Pray*

### 1 Timothy 2:1-15

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time. For this I was appointed a herald, an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), and a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument. Also, the women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or expensive apparel, but with good works, as is proper for women who profess to worship God. A woman is to learn quietly with full submission. I do not allow a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; instead, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and transgressed. But she will be saved through childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with good sense.

#### **I. 1 Timothy 2:1-7 - Praying for others is good and pleases God!**

- A. Petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings... oh my!
  - 1. Petition: an earnest request, made to an authority
  - 2. Prayer: a petition made to God, communicating with God
  - 3. Intercession: a petition or prayer in favor of another
  - 4. Thanksgiving: a prayer expressing gratitude
- B. Made for everyone... and all those who are in authority
- C. Why?
- D. Lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity
- E. God wants all to be saved and to know the Truth

- F. Who better to lead the church?
- G. One mediator between God and mankind: Christ Jesus

**H. 1 Timothy 2:17**

For this I was appointed a herald, an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), and a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

- I. Paul defends himself after urging Timothy to instruct certain people not to spread false teachings in 1 Timothy 1:3
- J. Paul acknowledges that his mission is to be a teacher to Gentiles

**II. 1 Timothy 2:8-15 - Distractions hinder godliness and dignity!**

- A. Men - praying, without anger or argument
- B. Women - modesty, decency, good works

**C. 1 Timothy 2:11-15**

A woman is to learn quietly with full submission. I do not allow a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; instead, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and transgressed. But she will be saved through childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with good sense.

- D. These verses have split believers with respect to women in leadership
- E. How do we handle these verses (and others like it)?
- F. God gives us the answer through Peter

**G. 2 Peter 3:15-18**

Also, regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our dear brother Paul has written to you according to the wisdom given to him. He speaks about these things in all his letters. There are some things hard to understand in them. The untaught and unstable will twist them to their own destruction, as they also do with the rest of the Scriptures. Therefore, dear friends, since you know this in advance, be on your guard, so that you are not led away by the error of lawless people and fall from your own stable position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

- H. "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

- I. At face value, Paul implies that women are less than equal to men
- J. Paul encourages women in the bible
  - 1. Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)
  - 2. Priscilla (Acts 18:26)
  - 3. Junia (Romans 16:7)
  - 4. Euodia (Philippians 4:2-3)
  - 5. Syntyche (Philippians 4:2-3)
  - 6. Eunice, Timothy's mom (2 Timothy 1:5)

7. Lois, Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5)

**K. Galatians 3:27-29**

For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

- L. Paul states that in Christ there is no male and female; they are equal
- M. Why, then, would he give this instruction to Timothy?
- N. Elder Jim explained who Timothy was last week (check it out on our website and YouTube)
- O. Where was Timothy?
- P. Elder Evan mentioned that Paul urged Timothy to stay in Ephesus to "instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine" (1 Timothy 1:3)
- Q. There are certain people in Ephesus that are distracting believers from godliness and dignity
- R. Verses 8 and 9 hinted at them:
  - 1. Men were arguing with anger
  - 2. Women were belittling one another because of their appearance
- S. Verses 11 and 12 get to the heart of what Timothy was facing:
  - 1. A (singular) woman was not showing Timothy respect; not learning quietly
  - 2. This woman was usurping authority and teaching false doctrines
- T. Paul was giving Timothy the words to confront this woman
- U. Verse 13 states, "For Adam was formed first, then Eve."
- V. Ephesus, at that time, was known for one of the Wonders of the World: The Temple of Artemis
- W. Their version of Artemis was taken from the Greek goddess Artemis, the Huntress, but focused more on her... femininity.
- X. Their entire culture and economics were based on Artemis of Ephesus
- Y. This isn't about women in leadership; the Ephesian women needed leadership and sound theological teaching
- Z. Bottom line: their culture was focused on appearance and false teachings; Timothy was trying to get them to focus on Christ

### **The Crux**

What is distracting you from focusing on Christ? Is it tangible things like cellphones, video games, money? Is it intangible things like status, power, affluence? Is it busy-ness, always having to do something, needing to get things done? Is it indifference, IDK and IDC?

Think of one thing that is distracting you from godliness and dignity. Imagine if that thing was taken care of, how much closer would you be to Christ?

### **Invitation**

We are to make petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for everyone, for our leaders, and all in authority. Come make a petition of God through prayer. Come intercede for someone that God has placed in your life. Come give God thanks for what He has done for you and is still doing for you. I invite you to spend time with the Holy Spirit right now.

If you do not have a relationship with Christ, come boldly and accept Him as your Lord and Savior. Confess to Him that you are in desperate need of a Savior. His grace and mercy are given to you. He already paid the price for it. Come.