

1 Timothy 2:1-7 – Praying & Preaching

Michael Silva / May 7, 2017

Opening: Joke

- During a visit to a mental asylum, a visitor asked the director how to determine whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.
- “Well,” said the director, “We fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient, and ask him to empty the bathtub.”
- “Oh, I see,” said the visitor. “A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup.”
- “No,” said the director, “a normal person would pull out the plug.”
- Immediately looking over his shoulder the director declares, “Nurse, we have a new patient!”

Transition: We are on a Journey... in the book of 1 Timothy, which has a lot to say about church leadership, doctrine, and **discipleship**.

1. No, we are not talking about crazy people or getting locked up today, but we will see in our passage how we do have a **Mediator**, one who intercedes for us on our behalf.
2. Paul wrote this letter to young Pastor Timothy to encourage & instruct him in **how to deal with false teachers** within the church at Ephesus.
 - a) Paul’s instructions are intended to help the church **recognize the difference** between false and true teachers.
3. Throughout this letter, we will see that as disciples, we are to be **grounded** in and **guided** by the gospel and right doctrine.
 - a) As disciples of Christ, we are called to **live out the realities** of the gospel in our lives.

Let's read our passage: 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (NKJV)ⁱ **And Pray...**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer. - Psalm 19:14

1. In **Chapter 1** Paul has warned Timothy of **false teachers** and shared how the **Gospel** had changed his, Paul’s own life.
 - a) He then shared how some in the church, Hymenaeus and Alexander, had **rejected** the true faith and had to be put out of the church.

1 Timothy 2:1 ¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

1. Paul's phrase **first of all** **doesn't** refer to time, but rather importance. This topic he about to address is of **first importance**. It's the **4 formers of prayer**...
 - a) **supplications** – An **earnest** request, asking with **urgency**.
 - i) We do this naturally when times are tough.
 - ii) We need to learn how to do this all the time... Even though things are good we still cry out to God declaring, *"I still need You, all the time and in every moment!"*
 - b) **prayers** – A general term for talking to God.
 - c) **intercessions** – Making a request **on behalf of others**.
 - i) Whenever you pray for someone else's needs that is **intercessions**.
 - d) **giving of thanks** – This is God's will for all of us.
 - i) **1 Thessalonians 5:18** **in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**
 - ii) D. **Guzik** explains the importance of **giving of thanks**, "[It] is an essential part of our walk with God. Those who lack a basic sense of gratitude in their lives lack a basic Christian virtue."
2. Who should be included in our prayers?
 - a) Paul limits it to **all men**.
 - i) First of all, all men need prayer!
 - b) Most Christians find it **easy** to pray for their **family, friends, and loved ones**, but it should not end there. (Guzik)
 - i) We should also pray for our **enemies** and for those with whom we have **conflict** and **tension**.
 - ii) We should pray for those who **annoy** us, and for those who seem to be **against us**.
 - (1) This meant that Timothy and the Ephesians should be praying for Hymenaeus and Alexander.
 - (2) They fall into the broad category of **all men**.
 - c) We should especially pray for the **lost** and those who are **far from the Lord**.
 - d) We should pray for those who **don't seem to need prayer** for they are the ones who probably need it most.
 - i) Those who **seem to have it all together** need prayer just as much as those whose lives seem to be falling apart.

- e) We need to be praying for those who serve, military members and police officers.
- f) We need to pray of for those who are in need, the homeless, and those who have fallen on hard times.
- g) I would like to ask that you include **me and my family** along with **Scott** and his family in your prayers.
 - i) Ministry leaders face an incredible amount of **spiritual warfare** and need your prayers for protection.
 - ii) Also pray for **our church** and **our ministries** and **those who volunteer and serve** in those ministries.

1 Timothy 2:2 ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

1. Paul also said in **Romans 13:1** **Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.**
 - a) This was not an easy thing Paul was asking.
 - i) Historically: **Caesar Nero** was emperor over the Roman Empire at that time. He was a violent, madman!
 - ii) A modern example of Nero might be Hitler or Saddam Husain. How can you pray for such madmen?
 - b) Yet Paul tells us our place, we should be **prayerful subjects** of the authorities over us.
 - c) The early church leader **Tertullian** explained: “We pray for all the emperors, that God may grant them long life, a secure government, a prosperous family, vigorous troops, a faithful senate, an obedient people; that the whole world may be in peace; and that God may grant, both to Caesar and to every man, the accomplishment of their just desires.” (Clarke)
2. For this reason, we should be praying for President Trump... And if you don't like Trump that's all the more reason you need to be praying for him.
 - a) Last week he signed an Executive Order which protects religious freedom.
 - b) We should be praying for our **governor, mayors, business owners and bosses** where we work.
 - c) We are to pray for those who make decisions at affect us like congressmen and judges.
3. About 2,000 years ago Caesar Augustus declared (Luke 2) that the world should be registered.
 - a) There was at that time a young virgin named Mary who lived in Northern Israel.
 - i) God had visited Mary and declared that she would be the mother of God's Son, the Messiah.
 - ii) Mary was betrothed to be married to Joseph, but had not known him intimately yet.

- iii) And through the power of the Holy Spirit Mary, a virgin miraculously conceived and became pregnant.
- b) But the timing of Caesar's census forced Mary and Joseph to undertake a long dangerous journey late in Mary's pregnancy so they could be registered in Joseph's home town of Bethlehem far to the south.
- c) Shortly after their arrival there, Mary gave birth to Jesus.
 - i) The Messiah was born in Bethlehem.
 - d) Hundreds of years before that, God had spoken through the prophets that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
 - e) It was God and not Caesar who was ultimately in control!
 - f) We pray for our leaders recognizing that God is the one who is really in control.
- 4. Paul tells us that the purpose of our prayers for those in authority is so **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.**
 - a) **2 Chronicles 7:14** if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
 - b) So instead of complaining about politics, let's pray over our politicians.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- 1. This is an incredible truth that should encourage you... That God is love and desires that people be saved.
 - a) This is why we should be praying for all men!
- 2. In verse 1 we are told that we should be **talking to God** about the people in our lives.
 - a) Here we recognize that we are also supposed to be **talking to the people** about God.
 - b) Our prayers and lifestyle should be consistently doing one thing... pointing people to Jesus.
 - c) Since this is true, that God **desires all men to be saved** we should be continually engaged in evangelism.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 ⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus*, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

1. Paul is simply **restating** what Jesus said in **John 14:6** “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - a) We are **not** all that different from the people back in Paul’s day.
 - i) They worshiped many gods and the people in our culture do that as well.
 - ii) Today people worship materialism.
 - (1) Their jobs and retirement accounts.
 - (2) Their looks and image.
 - (3) Sports or hobbies that consume them.
 - iii) And the prevailing philosophy in our culture is now that all ways & pursuits are equally good and achieve the same end.
 - b) Paul says everything apart from Christ is counterfeit!
 - i) The **Man Christ Jesus** is the **only one God and one Mediator between God and men**.
 - ii) **J.V. McGee**, “Well, my friend, today we have a Mediator—the Lord Jesus Christ has come. He has one hand in the hand of Deity because He is God. He is able to save to the uttermost because He is God, and He has paid the price for our salvation. He is a Mediator because He has also become man. He can hold my hand; He understands me. He understands you; you can go to Him, and He is not going to be upset with you. He will not lose His temper or strike you or hurt you in any way. You may say, “Well, I’ve failed. I’ve done such-and-such, and I’ve come short of the glory of God.” My friend, He knows that, and He still loves you and wants to put His arm around you.”
2. Additionally, Jesus’s death on the cross was our **ransom** payment.
 - a) We were held **hostage** by sin and Jesus came in and became the **ransom** that purchased our freedom.
 - b) And His sacrifice was sufficient as **ransom for all**.
 - i) Not a few, some, or many.
 - ii) His shed blood can save all, all who will believe.

1 Timothy 2:7 ⁷ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ *and not lying*—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1. **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- a) The Word of God is consistent in its message, it is the **truth in Christ** that God wants to see sinners saved.
2. Paul was **appointed** or commissioned to be a **preacher or a herald** of this good news message.
3. W.W. **Wiersbe** states, “The same God who ordains the end (the salvation of the lost) also ordains the means to the end: prayer and preaching of the Word. This Good News is not for the Jews only, but also for the Gentiles.”

Conclusion: What’s the big take away from this passage?

1. We should pray for all men...
 - a) And like Paul, preach to men God’s plan of salvation and forgiveness.
 - b) We need to be talking to God about the people in our lives and then we need to go and talk to the people in our lives about God.

Invitation: Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

ⁱ All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.