

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

I TIMOTHY 2:1-8

WEEK OF MARCH 9–14

PRIORITY OF PRAYER

After Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment, he and Timothy revisited some of the churches in Asia including the church at Ephesus. When Paul departed from Ephesus, he left Timothy behind to provide leadership to the congregation. As Paul explained to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:15, “**I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.**” Paul charged Timothy with responsibility to supply leadership and teach order and structure in the conduct of the church.

In chapter 1, Paul gave Timothy instructions to deal with false teachers. In chapter 2 Paul turns to a matter of great importance, prayer. In the passage before us this week, Paul addresses the priority of prayer, especially prayer for the lost.

As you study and meditate upon this passage, ask God to stir your heart to pray for the lost which will inevitably lead to our communication of the gospel to some for whom we pray.

Read I Timothy 2:1-2:

1. From **verse 1**, how does Paul express the significance and importance of prayer?
2. What are the four elements of prayer for the lost? What is the meaning of each of these terms?

“(Petitions) “is a word not only of advocacy, but also of empathy, sympathy, compassion, and involvement. Evangelistic prayer is not cold, detached or impersonal, like a public defender assigned to represent a defendant. Understanding the depths of their misery and pain, and their coming doom, we cry to God for the salvation of sinners.” [MacArthur New Testament Commentary 1 Timothy](#), John MacArthur, p.62.

3. For whom does Paul command believers to pray in **verses 1-2**?
4. What is God’s heart desire for all men? (See also **Ezekiel 18:32** and **Acts 17:30**)
5. Why do you think Paul specifically asks for prayer for those who are in authority? What is the benefit of this evangelistic prayer?

Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4 God desires that we pray for the lost. (All men (2:1) refers to the lost in general, not the elect only. God’s decree of election is secret. Believers have no way of knowing who is elect until they respond.” [1&2 Timothy MacArthur Bible Studies](#), p.18)

6. How does Paul describe God's view of "prayer on behalf of all men" in **verse 3**?

7. In **verse 4**, what is God's desire?

"God genuinely desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Yet in "the eternal purpose which he carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:11), He chose only the elect "out of the world" (John 17:6), and passed over the rest, leaving them to the damning consequences of their (cf. Rom. 1:18-32). The culpability for their damnation rests entirely on them because of their sin and rejection of God. God is not to blame for their unbelief."

"Since God desires all men to be saved, we are not required to ascertain that a person is elect before praying for that person's salvation. God alone knows who all the elect are (2 Timothy 2:19). We may pray on behalf of all men with full assurance that such prayers are good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior."
[MacArthur 1 Timothy](#), p.69.

Read 1 Timothy 2:5-8

8. In verses **5 and 6**, what is the truth Paul proclaims about salvation of the lost for whom we pray? See also **Acts 4:12**.

9. How does that truth (**vs.5-6**) shape the way in which we pray for the lost?

10. In **vs.6**, how does Paul describe Christ's substitutionary death for us?

"The phrase **gave himself as a ransom for all**, is a comment on the sufficiency of the atonement, not its design. To apply a well-known epigram, the ransom paid by Christ to God for the satisfaction of His justice is sufficient for all, but efficacious for the elect only. Christ's atonement is therefore unlimited as to its sufficiency but limited as to its application. [MacArthur Commentary 1 Timothy](#), p.72

11. In **vs. 7**, how does Paul describe the evangelistic ministry to which he was called?

12. "*Therefore*" in **vs 8** marks the conclusion of Paul's instruction for evangelistic prayer. What does Paul command?

13. In **verse 8**, Paul uses the phrase "*in every place*". Each time Paul uses that phrase in other letters, he is referring to the official assembly of the church. Men are to lead in teaching and praying when the church assembles. What should be characteristic of those men praying for the lost in the public assembly of the church?

"Paul's emphasis here is not on a particular posture for prayer. The hands symbolize the activity of life, thus holy hands represent a holy life. [MacArthur Commentary 1 Timothy](#), p.75

14. Is your heart gripped by the misery, pain and coming doom of the lost? Who are those you pray for daily?

"Evangelism begins with evangelistic prayer." [MacArthur Commentary 1 Timothy](#), p.75