

THE LOST ARE PERISHING...WE MUST PRAY

1 Timothy 2:1-8

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The soul-winner must be a master of the art of prayer. You cannot bring souls to God if you go not to God yourself. You must get your battle-ax, and your weapons of war, from the armory of sacred communication with Christ. If you are much alone with Jesus, you will catch His Spirit; you will be fired with the flame that burned in His breast, and consumed His life. You will weep with the tears that fell upon Jerusalem when He saw it perishing. —Spurgeon

1. Praying for the lost is your _____ v1

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray. —Luther

- **Entreaties**—requests or supplication. It has a sense of need or even urgency.
- **Prayers**— always signifies praying to God. It is the most general word for prayer and is used for all types of prayers to God.
- **Petitions**—To converse with God. Bold access to God's presence.
- **Thanksgivings**—from which we get the English word Eucharist. It adds gratitude as a motivation for our requests.

John 3:36 He who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on Him.

We usually pray more for things than we do for men. Our prayers should be thrown across their pathway as they rush in their downward course to a lost eternity. —E.M. Bounds

2. Praying for the lost fosters _____ v2

Daniel 2:21 It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

3. Praying for the lost _____ your heart with God's v3-4

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the Lord, and there is no Savior besides Me.

Luke 15:10 There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

- All men means _____ goes to heaven—universalism

A staggering number of people have been taught that a select few Christians will spend forever in a peaceful, joyous place called heaven, while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment and punishment in hell with no chance for anything better....This is misguided and toxic and ultimately subverts the contagious spread of Jesus's message of love, peace, forgiveness, joy that our world so desperately needs to hear. Rob Bell in Love Wins

- All men means all _____ of men—Jews, Gentiles, etc.
- All men means _____ men—Paul is speaking of the elect
- All men means _____ single individual person in the world

Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Salvation is freely offered to all

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 2 Cor 5:15

Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

Rom 5:18

But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. Heb 2:9

and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world. 1 John 2:2

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, Tit 2:11

the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. John 6:37

God is sovereign in salvation

When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. Acts 13:48

and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. Rom 8:30

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself Eph 1:4,5

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. 1 Tim 4:10

But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother's womb and called me through His grace. Gal 1:15

It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thes 2:14

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Pet 2:9

On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? ²¹ Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? Rom 9:20-21

4. Praying for the lost acknowledges our only _____ v5-6

Job 9:2,3,19,32-33 But how can a man be in the right before God? If one wished to dispute with Him, He could not answer Him once in a thousand *times*. *If it is a matter of power, behold, He is the strong one!* And if *it is a matter of justice, who can summon Him?...For He is not a man as I am that I may answer Him, That we may go to court together. There is no umpire between us, Who may lay his hand upon us both.*

Mark 10:45 The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

5. Praying for the lost clarifies your _____ v7

2 Corinthians 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 He manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. ¹⁵ For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

6. Praying for the lost requires a _____ life v8

It is man's business to pray; and it takes manly men to do it. It is godly business to pray, and it takes godly men to do it...It is intense and profound business which deals with God and His plans and purposes, and it takes wholehearted men to do it. No half hearted, half brained, half spirited efforts will do. –EM Bounds

James 5:16 The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.