

Lesson 6: Praying for People in Authority

Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-6 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time...”

Summary of this Section: Paul encourages Timothy to pray for people in authority, so that the church will be free to openly live out the gospel and proclaim the message of the gospel drawing people to repentance and faith.

Section 1: The context of the preceding verses:

Two attacks on the church:

- The insider needed to be removed from the church membership.
- The outsider needed to be humbled by God to protect the church from his vicious attacks

Review from last week:

- **Alexander:** An influential man who rejected the gospel and caused Paul considerable grief in the city
- **Acts 19:33** “And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defense unto the people...”
- **2 Timothy 4:14-15** “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works... Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words...”
- **A parallel: David crying out to God for vindication and protection from Cush the Benjamite: Psalm 7:1-2** “O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me: Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver...”

Section 2: The Command: 2:1 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority...”

Details:

- **Therefore:** on the basis of what Paul has already stated
- **First of all:** This is a matter of major importance
- **Prayers:** General approach to God
- **Supplications:** Something that is burdening the heart
- **Intercessions:** Prayer on the behalf of others
- **Giving of Thanks:** Gratitude to God for that person
- **For all men:** There are no limitations given here
- **Kings and all in authority:** He specifically emphasizes people who are in authority.

Some practical reasons why we pray this way:

- We need to see the value of every person with whom we interact.
- We need to genuinely care about them as people.
- We need to bring their names and needs before God's throne of grace.
- We need to express gratitude to God for them, recognizing their value to God.
- We need to pray for them, recognizing their impact on our own wellbeing the wellbeing of the people around us.

Summary: We need to pray with gratitude to God for all people, especially those who are in authority

Section 3: The reason for the command: 2:2-3 "That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty...for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

- **Reason 1:** That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty...
- **Reason 2:** This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior...
- **Reason 3:** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth...

Section 4: God's gracious disposition toward people: 2:3-6 "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time..."

- **Truth 1: God desires that we have peaceful lives.**
- **Truth 2: God desires that all people come to salvation.**
- **Truth 3: God has provided in the person of Christ the only acceptable mediator, Christ.**
- **Truth 4: God has provided in the person of Christ the full payment for our redemption.**

Conclusion:

- In God's goodness toward us, He desires that we live peaceable lives.
- In God's goodness toward the lost, He desires that they come to repentance and faith.
- God has ordained that the way people are saved is through His sufficient work on their behalf.
- God has ordained that the way people come to a saving knowledge of the gospel is through the lives and gospel witness of Christians.
- God has ordained that the way He accomplishes these two objectives is in response to the prayers of His people.
- Let's pray as this passage commands us to pray!