

1 Timothy Chapter 2A

In Chapter 1 Paul addressed the PROTECTION of the church with his command to correct False Teachers.

Here in Chapter 2 Paul moves to the PRACTICE of the church, the way in which Saints will live out their new life in Christ.

- The first subject that he will address is the practice of prayer.

Sally Meck's Prayer: volume after volume of prayers: Answered prayer received a red "V" IN the 1987 through 1993 volumes: Sally was praying that I would become the pastor of this church... She showed me that line in her prayer journal in 1994 when I was ordained.

- How many of you keep a prayer journal? (Rachel)
- How many of you keep a running prayer list, a book like Sally?
- How many participate in the church's prayer e-mail each week?

How extensive is your prayer list?

- Family (Husband, wife, kids, parents) / Extended family? (aunts, uncle, cousins)
- Friends, the families of your friends? (their kids, parents)
- Co-workers? The family of your co-workers? (pray in the break room, in your car)
- Neighbors – Do they ever ask you to pray for them?
- Acquaintances? (People that you meet) One man in the gym was sharing the difficulties he was having with his grandson and I asked if I could pray for him. He didn't think I meant right there on the gym floor.

However extensive your prayer list is, prepare to have it enlarged.

- Have your heart enlarged as well.

1 Timothy 2:1 **First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,**

When Paul says: "FIRST OF ALL: He is expressing a priority!

- Teens, on a Saturday morning when your parents give you a list of chores that need to be done and MOM says, FIRST of all you need to clean your room. That is her priority.
- If you are like me when I was a teen, your response is WHY? Why is cleaning my room such a priority to you? You need an EXPLANATION.
- When Paul approaches the subject of prayer he FIRST provides an exhortation after that he gives an explanation.
- When it comes to prayer many of us are teenagers at heart. We all need to be exhorted, We all demand explanations.

Paul's EXHORTATION involves the:

1. Size and Scope of our prayer

Paul's EXPLANATION involves

2. God's pleasure and His expressed will.

We will begin with the EXHORTATION: The SIZE AND SCOPE of our prayer.

1 Timothy 2:1 **First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.**

For ALL people: Quote John Kitchen: *“Here in Paul’s letter to Timothy, the scope of prayer is as broad as the sea of humanity itself. All needs, relationships, sins, triumphs, possibilities and actualities of humanity should be borne up before God in prayer.”*

- At first reading Paul’s exhortation sounds a bit farfetched. What does he want me to do break out the phone book and start praying?
- The number one rule in understanding scripture is to consider the context.
- When Paul moves from verse 1 to verse 2, he actually helps us understand his command,
- In essence he is telling us that we need to expand our prayer circle to include all KINDS OF PEOPLE such as: *kings, rulers and those in high positions.*
- Apparently the False Teachers were promoting an elitist mentality. Only a select few, those who were enlightened, only those with certain genealogical purities could be included in Christ. Paul says the church should be praying for ALL KINDS of people.

The size of our prayer is for ALL men, the SCOPE of our prayer includes such things as, **“supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings”**

- **Supplications** – the original word provides the image of one who has an audience with the king to present a petition. The word is used of an inferior petitioning his superior. This kind of prayer generally arises from a sense of need, an awareness of one’s lack.
- **Prayers** – This is a more general word for supplication that is uniquely used throughout the Bible in addressing one’s requests to God.
- **Intercession** – To me is a very interesting word, it emphasizes our communion with God more than our petition of God. The word literally means “to meet with” and describes the blessing of our access to God through Christ. The writer of Hebrews speaks of this access:

Hebrews 4:16 **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

The final word that Paul uses in describing the scope of our prayer is “Thanksgiving.”

- These expressions of gratitude should be the native tongue of all those who have experienced the grace of God in Jesus Christ.
- Because we have a good shepherd, because we have a perfect and holy Father who works all things together for our good we can trade our anxiety for thanksgiving.

Philippians 4: 6 **do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

Included in the size and scope of our prayer are those individuals who have authority over us.

1 Timothy 2:2, **for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.**

- It is not unusual in Christian circles to hear people malign our governing authorities.

- Conservative Radio spotlights the failures of our leaders and provides kindling for the fires of criticism and even slander.
- I have a question for you: Does our mean spirited, self-righteous criticism make the Gospel MORE appealing to those who are lost?
- The Word of God tells me that these same authorities, who are the brunt of our jokes and the object of our “righteous anger”, are authorities who have been ordained by God.

Romans 13:1 **Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.**

- Remember at the time of Paul’s writing Nero was the Emperor of Rome. He was personally responsible for the murder of 10’s of thousands of Christians and yet the apostles never bring a railing accusation against him.
- I would submit to you that we would have a far greater impact on our society if we focused our attention on the Gospel both in proclamation and practice and used our mouths for prayer rather than slander.

OK we have heard the EXHORTATION to pray now we move on to the EXPLANATION That explanation is found in verses 3 - 6. Here are the bare bones of it:

1. This kind of prayer pleases God.
2. This kind of prayer aligns with God’s will.

1 Timothy 2: 3 **This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

Our participation in this enlarged scope of evangelistic prayer IS GOOD!

- Good =KALON – it is intrinsically, morally good. It is a noble effort and well pleasing to God who is our Savior.
- The prayer that we pray for ALL MEN (*all kinds of men*) is prayer concerning their SALVATION. **(God) desires all people to be saved**
- Because all of humanity has been separated from God through Adam’s sin and because ALL men SIN. All men are in need of a SAVIOR who will deliver them from the wrath of God.
- God therefore calls us to pray for all men in view of both their desperate need and God’s gracious provision.

Paul explains God’s provision ion Vs 5-6.

1 Timothy 2: 5 **For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.**

- When it comes to our PRAYER and our PROCLIMATION God has called us to pray for all kinds of men and proclaim the Gospel to all kinds of men indiscriminately. WHY?
- Because Jesus is the ONLY savior (ONE MEDIATOR) who can deliver a man from the wrath of a just and holy God.

DIG DEEPER: When Paul writes that Jesus “**gave himself as a ransom for all**” the question that arises is “WHO IS ALL.” Is it ALL men or ALL kinds of men?

- Did Jesus really die for all men, everywhere in every generation?

If Jesus did actually DIE for all men and his death was truly effectual in removing sin *as far as the east is from the west*, then NO ONE should ever be sent to hell.

- BUT that would be UNIVERSALISM. And the Bible doesn’t teach universalism.
- It clearly teaches that some will be saved from God’s wrath and others will not.

Matthew 25 Describing all kinds of servants, we find a “**worthless servant**” who will be cast into “**outer darkness.**” Where there will be “**weeping and gnashing of teeth.**”

What we know from the scripture and what we celebrate as believers is this:

- The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is effectual in pardoning sin and absorbing God’s wrath.

Hebrews 10:14, **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

- The sacrifice of Christ was effective in perfecting, for all time those who are in the process of sanctification.
- SO what do we know?
 - We know that Jesus is the ONLY SAVIOR ordained by God who can provide eternal life for all men.
 - In Chapter 4 of 1 Timothy Paul helps us understand the phrase “all men”

1 Timothy 4:10, **For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.**

- Jesus is the savior of all people, NOT because ALL people will be saved BUT because he is the ONLY SAVIOR given by God to man.

Let me illustrate with a picture from Genesis:

In Genesis chapter 6, the sin of men brought about the righteous decree of God’s judgment:

Genesis 6: 12 **And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.** 13 **And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.**

- Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord so the Lord instructed him to build an ark.
- The Ark would be the only way of escape for all men from God’s judgment.

While Noah was building the ark he was also making a proclamation to his fellow man.

2 Peter 2:5, tells us that Noah was a herald of righteousness.

1 Peter 3:20 tells us that God patiently waited while Noah built the ark.

The door of the ark remained open to “whosoever would come” until the day that God’s judgment struck the earth.

- The ark was God's chosen instrument of salvation for ALL men in the time of Noah. BUT only Noah and his family were delivered from God's wrath.

1 Timothy 4:10b *we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.*

- The ark was God's means of salvation to all men ESPECIALLY Noah and his family.

While we hold forth the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ to ALL MEN only those who repent of their sin and believe in his substitutionary atonement on the cross will actually be saved.

- The broad focus of our prayer MUST reflect the express desire of God.

What is God's desire:

Isaiah 45: 22 *"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.*

Isaiah 55:1, *"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

- I would encourage you this morning to ALIGN the desires of your heart with the desires of God's heart,
- *He is not wishing that any should perish*, with that in mind he has called us to pray for all kinds of men.

Far too often our prayers are narrowly confined to our personal needs and wants. Rarely does our intercession move beyond our own concerns.

- Let's remember the heart of God when we pray and expand our intercession to include all kinds of men.

Luke 10: 2 *And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*