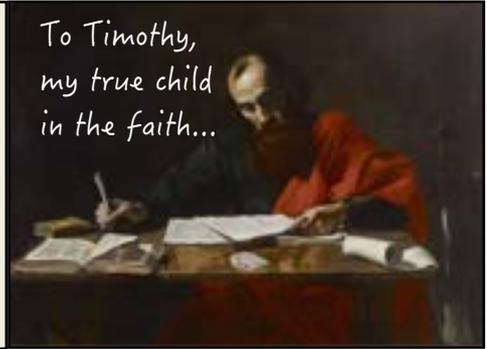


1 Timothy

A Call to Faithful Service

Lesson 3

To Timothy,
my true child
in the faith...



In 1 Timothy 1 the evangelist Timothy is given the solemn charge to make sure that only sound doctrine is found within the church. False doctrine is dangerous, damaging, and cannot be allowed to continue.

In 1 Timothy 2 Paul instructs on the matters of prayer and the role of women in the church meetings. In this lesson we will concentrate on public prayer in the church. This chapter is not meant to be an exhaustive description of prayer or what it can accomplish, but is specifically designed to address the problems Timothy was facing.

Prayer Within the Church (2:1-8)

After already writing an entire chapter Paul now uses the phrase “*First of all.*” The meaning of this phrase is not first in time or order, but is meant to show that prayer is to be a top priority. In the previous chapter Paul has instructed on what must **not** take place in the church and now he will write about some of what must happen in the life of the church.

- 1. Discuss the meaning of each of following words in verse 1 as they relate to prayer?**
 - a. Supplications -**
 - b. Prayers -**
 - c. Intercessions -**
 - d. Thanksgivings -**

The words relating to prayer in verse one are all plural indicating that these prayers are not a one time occurrence, but an ongoing part of life within the church. Prayers were not only to be frequent, but were to be inclusive of those inside and outside the church. Paul prefaces the group of people with “*all people*” and then specifically mentions “*kings*” and those in “*high positions.*”

Those in positions of authority in government and business have the potential to make our lives better or worse by the decisions they make. Prayers are offered to God in hope that Christians may live a “*peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.*”

2. Should the nature of the government change whether or not we ought to pray for them or the content of our prayers? Explain your answer.

The 21st century church in many parts of the world today faces what the first century church endured: daily harassment, persecution, and even martyrdom. All Christians should regularly pray for those in authority around the world that believers might be allowed to live their faith in a way that is free from fear and persecution.



Peace will allow Christians to concentrate on developing a godly life (to become more like Christ) and a dignified¹ life (a life that is serious, without controversy, and holy.) Ongoing prayer and the fruit we hope to see it produce is described as “*good and pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour.*”

We pray not just for leaders in far away lands, but also at home. If we desire our communities, our state, and nation to be more Christ-like then we need to see the hearts those in authority moulded by a knowledge of the truth.

3. According to 2:4 what are two desires of God’s heart?

4. What is the common lesson in 2:4 and 1:15?

5. How does prayer help bring about the desires of God’s heart found in 2:4 and 1:15?



God wants to see all men find salvation and to “*come to the knowledge of the truth.*” John 8:44 tells us that Satan is the “*father of lies*” and we see the damage he is doing to the church in Ephesus through those who teach error. If any are to come to Christ to obtain salvation they must come to understand and believe the truth.

Previously Paul had praised God as the only God (1:17) and now restates that there is only one God and that Christ Jesus is the mediator between God and men. A mediator serves as a go-between for two separated parties. A mediator is concerned about bringing harmony, peace, understanding, and unity between two people or groups; in this case between God and men.

¹ The Greek word “*semnotes*” (σεμνότης) can be defined as “majesty; gravity, dignity, or dignified seriousness. <https://www.teknia.com/greek-dictionary/semnotes>

6. Why does Paul refer to Christ Jesus as a “man” in verse 5 and how does this qualify him to be the perfect mediator between God and man?

7. What is the meaning of the word ransom and what does it mean that Christ “gave himself as a ransom for all?”

The phrase “*which is the testimony given at the proper time*” (1:6) refers to the coming of Christ Jesus into the world and his death for the sins of men. Christ serves as undeniable testimony that God loves man and that the desire of his heart is to see all men saved. God sent his Son into the world at just the right time (Galatians 4:4-5)² for his work to be accomplished.

Paul was appointed a preacher and an apostle for the purpose of bearing witness to the Gentiles of what Jesus had done for mankind. Paul didn’t choose himself to bear this news, he was appointed by God for this mission.

8. In what three ways does Paul describe himself in verse 7 and what do each of these mean?

- a.
- b.
- c.

Apparently some in Ephesus were questioning Paul’s apostleship or his integrity so Paul stresses that what he says is the truth.

Verse 8 begins a description of part of what happens in the church assembly. Paul speaks first to men and later to women. First, men are to pray “*in every place*” or in all the churches. There is a universal expectation that every church, in every place, for all time will be a church where men are engaged together in prayer.



The lifting of the hands was a common posture for prayer in the first century; this gesture may have been designed to demonstrate the readiness to receive what God would provide. That those engaged in prayer are to have “*holy hands*” is not to be understood physically, but metaphorically and describes one who is pure of thought and who is open to God and peaceable to others.

² Go to <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/688-galatians-4-4-5-the-fullness-of-time> for further study on this subject.

9. Why is it not possible to properly pray when angry or quarreling?

Practical Application

1. The Lord's church is to pray. It is to pray often. It is to pray together. It is to pray specifically. It is to pray for leaders and those in authority. As Christians we should devote greater time and energy to public prayer within the church.
2. One of the goals of prayer is to see others come to a knowledge of the truth and for freedom to come to oppressed Christians. Knowing the goal of our prayers helps us to pray more specifically.
3. Our hearts ought to be moulded by the desire of God's heart. In our prayers and in our daily life we should pray and work to see that all men would be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.
4. We should be reminded of the great thankfulness we should have for Christ Jesus who serves as our mediator and who gave his life as a ransom for all.