

Lessons From I Timothy

Pray For All People

(I Ti 2:1-7)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From I Timothy.”
 - a. Last week we looked at “Christ’s Mercy.”
 - i. **I Ti 1:12-14** “I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”¹
 - b. This week we will be examining “Pray For All The People.”
 - i. **I Ti 2:1** “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people”
3. Some things to keep in mind.
 - a. Paul had just charged or commanded Timothy to wage the good warfare.
 - i. He was to do this by using the prophecies.
 1. **I Ti 1:18**
 - ii. He was to do this by faith and a good conscience.
 1. **I Ti 1:19**
 - b. Paul had just reminded Timothy of those that were not waging the good warfare and consequently had to be withdrawn from.
 - i. Hymenaeus had become a false teacher.
 1. **II Ti 2:17-18** “and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.”
 - ii. Alexander had done much harm to Paul by resisting Paul’s words.
 1. **II Ti 2:14-15** “Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.”
4. Having made Timothy aware of how he was to fight the good fight of faith, with God’s Word, his faith, and his good conscience, he turns Timothy’s attention to how to try and prevent the fall of those like Hymenaeus and Alexander.
 - a. The only avenue Christians have to combat sin in others’ lives is prayer.
 - i. This is not to suggest we can pray and therefor keep others from sinning but rather we pray on their behalf.
5. With that in mind let us examine our text this day.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Lessons From I Timothy

I. Pray For All People

- A. There are four types of prayers mentioned to be done for others
 - 1. Supplications
 - i. These are prayers that are meant to cover the needs of others.
 - a. Maybe they need to repent, physical things, comforting...
 - ii. This Greek word is found 18 times in the N.T.
 - a. In the letters to Timothy: **I Ti 5:5; II Ti 1:3**
 - 2. Prayers
 - i. This is the general word used to make request from God for others.
 - a. This could be anything really that we humbly request on others behalf.
 - ii. This Greek word is found 36 times in the N.T.
 - a. In the letters to Timothy: **I Ti 5:5**
 - 3. Intercessions
 - i. This is seeking to be seen and heard by God on behalf of others.
 - a. Thus desiring an audience with God for others.
 - ii. This Greek word is found 2 times in the N.T.
 - a. In the letters to Timothy: **I Ti 4:5**
 - 4. Thanksgivings
 - i. This is thanking God for the benefit and blessing of others.
 - a. No matter who it is everyone can be a blessing for us.
 - 1. Whether it is the righteous to righteousness.
 - 2. Whether it is the persecutor to longsuffering.
 - ii. This Greek word is found 15 times in the N.T.
 - a. In the letters to Timothy: **I Ti 4:3-4**
- B. Paul mentions two groups that we are to pray for
 - 1. First Paul mentions “all people” which would include...
 - i. The educated/uneducated
 - ii. The rich/poor
 - iii. The good/bad
 - iv. The Christian and non-Christian
 - v. The red, yellow, black, and white...
 - a. **Ro 2:11** “For God shows no partiality.”
 - 2. Second Paul mentions “specific people” which included...
 - i. Kings
 - a. In Paul’s day there were many kings but only one emperor.
 - 1. Illustration: Herod the Great was “king.”
 - ii. For all those in high positions.
 - a. The emperor
 - b. The governors
 - c. The civil leaders
 - d. The military leaders...
- C. Thus...
 - 1. We clearly see Paul’s effort to contend that we ought to pray for everyone.

Lessons From I Timothy

II. Why We Are To Pray For All People

- A. We pray for kings and those in high places because...
 1. We want to lead peaceful, quiet, godly, and dignified lives.
 - i. **I Ti 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.”
 2. Keep in mind...
 - i. Rome allowed people to worship their own gods.
 - a. The catch was they had to show their loyalty to Rome also by worshipping the goddess Roma and the spirit of the emperor.
 - ii. The Jews only worshiped Jehovah.
 - a. They had to pray and make sacrifices for the emperor’s health however but were exempt from worshipping him.
 1. **Je 29:7** “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”
 - b. This is actually what led to Jerusalem’s destruction in AD 70 when the Jewish group known as Zealots decided to throw off the Roman yoke and stop praying or sacrificing on behalf of the emperor’s health.
 - iii. The Christians strived to keep the peace in the same way praying for the emperor’s health and civil rest.
 - a. This allowed two things.
 1. First it allowed there to be peace between Rome & Christianity.
 2. Second this allowed for the spreading of the gospel easier such as travel, lodging...
 - b. This type of behavior, like under the Old Law, was acceptable by God.
 1. **Ro 13:1-4** “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. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.”
3. Thus we pray for kings and those in high places so that we can “live without fear of persecution from the civil government because of religious beliefs and practices in obeying the Lord.” (Notes: I Timothy by WVBS pg. 20)

Lessons From I Timothy

- B. We pray for all people because...
1. We, like God, should desire all people to be saved.
 - i. **I Ti 2:4** "who desires all people to be saved..."
 - a. **II Pt 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."
 - ii. **Mt 5:16** "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
 2. We, like God, should desire all people to come to the knowledge/wisdom of the truth.
 - i. **I Ti 2:4** "who desires all people...to come to the knowledge of the truth."
 - a. **II Ti 2:15** "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."
 - ii. **I Pt 3:15** "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"
- C. Thus...
1. We can clearly see the motivation behind praying for everyone, which is based on salvation, knowledge of God's Word, which leads to peaceable less persecuted lives.

CONCLUSION

1. Brothers and sisters "prayer is a precious and powerful privilege of each Christians..."
(Notes: I Timothy by WVBS pg. 21)
 - a. Let us make sure we neglect not this privilege we have to pray for others.
2. Question: Does your prayer life have a significant aspect of it dedicated the others?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**