

## Seeking God's Plan Seeking God's Plan for His Family Prayerful Focus

### Purposeful Instruction

1 Timothy 1:5 - *But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

### Prayerful Focus

3 principles to help our church be a family of prayer:

#### **I. God is Honored When His People Pray**

A. The significant place of prayer in this passage – v. 1

1. "First of all."
2. "I urge..."

B. The facets of prayer

1. entreaties – deesis – to be without, to lack something

Puritan Richard Baxter - Oh, if you have the hearts of Christians or of men in you, let them yearn towards your...neighbors. Alas, there is but a step betwixt them and death and hell; many hundred diseases are waiting ready to seize on them, and if they die unregenerate, they are lost forever. Have you hearts of rock, that cannot pity men in such a case as this? If you believe not the Word of God, and the danger of sinners, why are you Christians yourselves? If you do believe it, why do you not bestir yourself to the helping of others? Do you not care who is damned, so you be saved? If so, you have sufficient cause to pity yourselves, for it is a frame of spirit utterly inconsistent with grace. ... Dost thou live close by them, or meet them in the streets, or labor with them, or travel with them, or sit and talk with them, and say nothing to them of their souls, or the life to come? If their houses were on fire, thou wouldst run and help them; and wilt thou not help them when their souls are almost at the fire of hell?

2. prayers – proseuche – used only in reference to God, an act of worship

3. petitions – enteuxis – to fall in with someone

Charles Haddon Spurgeon - One thing more, 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; and if you cannot speak so eloquently as He did, yet shall there be about what you say somewhat of the same power which in Him thrilled the hearts and awoke the consciences of men. My dear hearers, especially you members of the church, I am always so anxious lest any of you should begin to lie upon your oars, and take things easy in the matters of God's kingdom. There are some of you—I bless you, and I bless God at the remembrance of you—who are in season, and out of season, in earnest for winning souls, and you are the truly wise; but I fear there

are others whose hands are slack, who are satisfied to let me preach, but do not themselves preach; who take these seats, and occupy these pews, and hope the cause goes well, but that is all they do.

4. thanksgivings

## **II. God Especially Wants Us to Pray for Leaders in Government and Others in Authority**

A. Why “kings?”

1. Because their responsibility is heavy
2. Because they are often maligned or misrepresented
3. Because their job is often thankless
4. We should be satisfied, if not ecstatic, if we are allowed to freely minister

1 Timothy 2:2 - *...so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.*

B. Why should we pray for others in authority?

C. What does God think about such prayer?

1 Timothy 2:3 - *This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,*

## **III. A Prayerful Focus Helps Us Stay Centered on the Mission**

A. God’s desire

1 Timothy 2:4 - *who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

B. God’s provision

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

C. God’s appointment

1 Timothy 2:7 - *For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*

D. God’s invitation

1 Timothy 2:8 - *Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.*