



BIBLE TEXT | 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

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

DEVOTIONAL FOR 1 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

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In 1 Timothy 2 Paul gives Timothy instructions on prayer. Paul shows that prayer includes more than just a general request for blessings and protection, and that “supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people” (1 Timothy 2:1).

Supplication is a word we don't often use today. They are earnest pleadings, in which we present our requests to God (Philippians 4:6-7) with a spirit of humility (James 4:6). Paul also encourages Timothy to include prayers. Prayers in this context is our chance to commune with the Lord and share our adoration of God. We tell Him why we love Him and why He is wonderful to us. Prayer reminds us why we worship Him in the first place (Psalm 100). In addition to supplications and prayers, we have intercessions. Intercession is simply the requests we raise to the Lord on behalf of other people. Do you pray for yourself more than others? It often appears that we are better at praying for our own needs, rather than the needs of others and that we take intercessory prayer lightly. And finally, we are to share in thanksgivings, in which we give the Lord thanks for all our blessings and the blessings of others. Many of us grumble and complain throughout life, but fail to see all that we should be thankful for in our daily lives. What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

As you come to the end of verse 1, there are three little words that are the heart of this entire segment: “for all people.” Paul is instructing that we don’t pray only for those that we know or love easily. We can all agree that it is easy to pray for those who we have reciprocated love for, but Jesus calls us to a higher standard. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). Jesus says in Matthew 5:46, “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even tax collectors do the same?” Jesus’ death isn’t only for those who are lovely and loveable in our eyes. Christ lived and died to intercede on behalf of all people (1 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 7:25). Romans 5:8 says “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” In response to this, as believers in Christ, we are to pray for that same salvation and blessing for all people.

Paul then makes special mention to pray for the “kings and all who are in high positions” (1 Timothy 2:2b). We are encouraged to pray for our leaders and their responsibility to lead even when we do not agree with them. Obviously, when our leaders are fair and just, we benefit, but as fully devoted followers of Christ we are encouraged to live peaceful, quiet, godly and dignified lives (1 Timothy 2:2b; 1 Thessalonians 4:11) as an example to the world of our faith and obedience to Jesus, our true King.

When we pray in this manner, it is good and pleasing to God because we are praying for the truth of God to be known by all (1 Timothy 2:3). In verse five, Paul reinforces this truth by saying “there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”. Just as God redeemed Paul and appointed him to ministry through Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:7), you and I are appointed to lead and shepherd our families and others with our words and actions. As we read this passage, it should both convict us and compel us to adore God in our prayers by taking the focus off of us and by putting it on the One who created us, as well as pray fervently for those who do not know the good news of God’s saving grace. This is how we can go and be the Church!

Questions:

1. How deep is your prayer life? Are you consistently joining in a relational conversation with your heavenly Father?
2. As our presidential election draws near, are you praying for our current and future elected leaders to lead well? Are you praying for the salvation of those who are looking for truth in the wrong places?
3. Are you being discipled, as Timothy was by Paul? Is there anyone in your life that you are discipling?