

## I Timothy Sermon #9

I Timothy 2

Folks, we are entering into one of the most important areas of the Bible.

So important – three-part series

Chocolate covers

Paul changes gears with Timothy

After recharging Timothy in Chapter 1, Paul now begins the instructing of Timothy in church polity, church life – the public services of the church

Do you want to guess what the first instructions are?

1. Prayer and testimony
2. Salvation
3. Leadership – this chapter sets the groundwork on male leadership – don't miss this.

Church essentials:

Praying church

People – good testimony

Salvation is clear

Godly leadership

I have entitled tonight's sermon "Praying for the Lost"

I Timothy 2:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

I Timothy 2:1-8

Let us pray

You may be seated

## Praying for the Lost

### Vs. 1

. . . spiritual responsibilities

Paul calls for praying **first of all**, setting this sort of prayer – high on the list of priorities  
in the local church

What are we praying for? And why are we praying for all men?

Come to the Truth – one God, one Mediator

Prayer and evangelism are tied together

THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER . . . “First of all” – this phrase indicates that prayer is most  
important in the public worship of the church.

It is sad to see how prayer has lost importance in church.

The church must understand the priority and the role of prayer.

You have heard it a thousand times – the most important time of the week is our  
Prayer Time on Wednesday Night.

Peter Deyneka – founder of the Slavic Gospel Association (SGA)

Your money – your offerings – our church supports

We are hoping to plant a church with them in late 2006 in Russia

“Peter Dynamite” – read his life story – Stan Wiggins, Don winters

“Much prayer, much power! No prayer, no power!”

When a local church ceases to depend on prayer, God ceases to bless its ministry.

Look at verse 1

The first three terms are virtually synonymous! There are some subtle differences.  
Understanding the differences will enrich our concept of prayer.

THE VARIETY OF PRAYER . . . There are at least seven different Greek nouns for “prayer,” and four of them are used here.

These words of prayer are in the context of what? Evangelism, salvation, soul winning

The first word is “supplications”

#1 *Supplications* carries the idea of “offering a request for a felt need.”

Do we have a burden for the lost? Who had the greatest burden?

And who are we supposed to be like?

Do we see the need of salvation for people?

Is it a passion – burden – heavy upon our heart? “God’s Greatest Gift”

When we look out on the masses of people – lost people – it should drive us to our knees

The second word is “prayers”

#2 *Prayers* is the most common term (it is the general word) for this activity, and it emphasizes the sacredness of prayer.

In Scripture it is used only in reference to God.

It thus carries with it a unique element of worship and reverence.

We are praying *to God*; prayer is an act of worship, not just an expression of our wants and needs.

There should be reverence in our hearts as we pray to God.

The third word is “intercession”

This word appears only here and in I Timothy 4:5 in the New Testament.

It comes from a root word meaning “to fall in with someone,” or get involved with them – become an advocate.

We identify with the needs, and we become involved in the struggle.

This is a word not only of advocacy, but also of empathy, sympathy, compassion, and involvement.

Prayer is not cold, detached, or impersonal.

Understanding the depths of sinners' misery and pain, and their coming doom, we cry to  
 God.

It calls us to pray on the behalf of all men.

The fourth word is "*Giving of thanks*"

#4 **Thanksgivings** . . . This calls for us to pray with a spirit of gratitude to God.

Thanksgiving is the only element of prayer that will continue forever.

We should not simply add our thanksgiving to the end of a selfish prayer!

Thanksgiving should be an important ingredient in all of our prayers.

In fact, sometimes we need to imitate David and present to God *only* thanksgiving with  
 no petitions at all!

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget  
 not all His benefits.

He has not dealt with us after our sins – nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

As far as the east is from the west . . .

Dan. 6:10-11

Daniel – kneel toward Jerusalem – gave thanks before his God – as he did previously

We see thanksgiving – our God is a saving God!

Now, notice THE OBJECTS OF PRAYER – vs. 1 – “All men” makes it clear that no  
 person on earth is outside the influence of prayer.

This means we should pray for the unsaved and the saved,

We don't need to pray for the dead – we cannot do anything for them.

We pray for people near us and people far away, for enemies as well as friends.

Our prayers are all too often narrowly confined to personal needs and wants and rarely  
 extend beyond those of our immediate circle of friends and family.

Too many Christians have the MCI Plan – friends and family

When we begin to pray for the lost like we should, guess where our heart will be.  
What will our passion be?

Out of the universal group of **all men**, Paul specifically singles out some.

### **Vs. 2**

Christians are to pray for public officials

We are to pray for whoever is in power.

The man who was in power in Rome when Paul wrote was bloody Nero.

A neglect to pray for authorities is a serious sin because of the authority and responsibility leaders have.

The prayer for **kings and all who are in authority** is not limited to just a petition that they would be wise and just, but that they would repent of their sins and believe the Gospel.

If the church today took the time and energy it spends on political maneuvering and lobbying and poured them into intercessory prayer, we might see a profound impact on our nation.

We have all too often forgotten that *“the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful [might through God] for the destruction of fortresses”* (II Cor. 10:4).

The key to changing a nation is the salvation of sinners, and that calls for faithful prayer.

Even when we cannot respect people in authority, we must respect their offices and pray for them.

### **Vs. 2**

“Quiet” refers to circumstances around us, while “peaceful” refers to a calm attitude within us.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:11, Christians are to be known for their quiet demeanor, not for making disturbances.

Although we may hate the evil world system that is the enemy of God, we are not to see those in it as our personal enemies.

They are captives of the real enemy (II Tim. 2:24-26).

They are not our enemies, they are our mission field.

To promote such a testimony, believers must – vs. 2e – pursue **godliness and dignity**.

It carries the idea of life lived in reverence to God.

**Godliness** can refer to a proper attitude; honesty to proper behavior – the correct walk of believers.

### **Vs. 3**

**This** points back to the commandment to pray . . . in verses 1-2.

True Christians pray in order to please God.

We must pray in the will of God, because it certainly does not please the Father when we pray selfishly.

James 4:2a-3, *“Ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”*

It’s often said that the purpose of prayer is not to get man’s will done in heaven, but to get God’s will done on earth.

What is God’s will? Vs. 4

The salvation of lost souls . . . We can pray for “all men” because it is God’s will that “all men” come to the knowledge of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

God loved the world (John 3:16) and Christ died for the whole world

I John 2:2, *“And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

I John 4:14, *“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.”*

Jesus died on the cross that He might draw “all men” to salvation (John 12:32).

This does not mean all people without *exception*

We know that people have gone to hell, are going, and will go

It means all people without *distinction* – Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, black or white.

If God doesn’t want anyone to perish, then why are so many lost?

#1 – blindness to the Truth

#2 – lust of the eyes, flesh, and pride of life

#3 – Christians – lack of prayer, lack of testimony

Prayer is an important part of God’s program for reaching a lost world.

God **desires all men to be saved** . . . (2 Peter 3:9) – He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather delights when sinners turn from their evil ways and live (Ezek. 33:11).

So prayer for the salvation of the lost is perfectly consistent with the heart of God.

He has commanded all men to repent (Acts 17:30).

But now God commandeth all men everywhere to repent.

We must pray that they will do so and embrace the salvation offered to all (Titus 2:11).

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

Many believers do not realize that prayer is based on the work of Jesus Christ as Savior and Mediator.

The sacrificial work of Jesus Christ on the cross

We do not have prayer access to God without our Mediator, Jesus Christ.

Prayer Mediator God = Evangelism

To pray only for ourselves is to deny the worldwide outreach of the Cross.

To ignore lost souls is to ignore the Cross.

We pray for “all” because Christ died for “all” and it is God’s will that “all” be saved.

We must give ourselves to God to be a part of His worldwide program to reach people before it is too late.

Christ died for “all men,” and God is willing for “all men to be saved.”

The same God who desires the salvation of the lost also provides the way – by prayer and preaching of the Word – vs. 7

The Gospel may be preached indiscriminately to all (Mark 16:15) – Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature;

The water of life and the offer of divine mercy are extended freely to all (Rev. 22:17) – And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely;

Christ is set forth as Savior for all to embrace (I John 4:14) – The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

Therefore the call to “come” is universal.

That does not mean that all will be saved.

Salvation can sincerely and legitimately be offered to all

How graphically the atoning work of Christ reveals to us the heart of God for the salvation of sinners!



That is why Paul refers to the atonement (in vs. 6) as the **testimony** by Christ **at the proper time**.

This thought precisely parallels Galatians 4:4-5, *“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the law.”*

Christ **gave Himself as a ransom** at exactly **the proper time** in God’s redemptive plan. His redemptive work is the most eloquent **testimony** ever **borne** to God’s saving desire for all sinners.

Evangelistic prayer for all men therefore reflects the heart of God, and honors Christ’s work on the cross.

### **Pray for the Lost**

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Do we have the passion for souls?

Does this passion move us to compassion? To action?

Inviting people to hear the message?

Witnessing to people?

Testifying to the world?

Do we live a life that reflects the Bible in a way as to have a foundation in which to give the Gospel?

How many of us have lost friends and family?

Are we praying faithfully for them?

Are we living holy before them?