



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Great Intercession

Passage: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Prayer is not the most visible work of the church, but it is the most vital. It rarely draws attention or impresses the world, yet nothing of eternal value moves forward without it. Scripture and church history remind us that God's work is never accomplished by human strength or strategy, but through dependent prayer. That is why when Paul instructs Timothy on the life of the church, he places prayer first. Before anything happens in the gathered church, something must happen before the throne of God.

I. Prayer is the Church's First Priority (Verse 1)

Every kind of prayer belongs in the life of the church and not just for personal concerns, but for all men.

The prayer life of the church reveals the vision of the church.

A praying church is a church that understands it cannot accomplish God's work apart from God's power.

II. Prayer is to Be Offered for Everyone (Verse 2)

God governs history through prayerful obedience, not political outrage.



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Christians are called to pray for rulers, not because rulers deserve it, but because peace advances the gospel.

A quiet and peaceable life is not an end in itself. It is a means. When society is stable, the church is free to worship, preach, send, and evangelize.

III. Prayer is Rooted in God's Desire for Salvation (Verses 3-4)

We do not pray because we have confidence in people. We pray because we have confidence in God.

God is pleased when His people pray according to His saving desire, even when the answer takes years, or comes in ways we never expected.

Prayer aligns your heart with God's heart.

IV. Prayer Rests on the Only Mediator (Verse 5)

Only Jesus stands in the middle with His hand on God and His hand on humanity.

Prayer does not work because we are persistent enough, sincere enough, or articulate enough. Prayer works because Christ stands between us and God.

V. Prayer is Grounded in the Ransom Christ Paid (Verse 6)

The cross was not an accident of history; it was the center of God's redemptive plan.

If Christ gave Himself without reservation, how can we withhold intercession out of convenience, distraction, or indifference?



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If we truly believe Christ paid a ransom for sinners, we cannot be casual about praying for them.

VI. Prayer Propels the Church Into God's Mission (Verse 7)

The same God who commands us to pray for all people also commands us to proclaim Christ to all people.

Prayer is not a substitute for obedience; it is the fuel for it.

The church is not called to choose between praying and witnessing. We are commanded to do both.

Prayer aligns the church with God's mission and prepares hearts—both the hearts of those who will hear, and the hearts of those who will speak.

Conclusion: We have seen that God advances His saving purposes through the prayers of His people, making prayer both a great privilege and a serious responsibility.

A. Examine Our Prayers

If our prayer life never presses us beyond ourselves, we are not praying biblically.

B. Examine Our Theology

Right theology always produces right humility and right humility always fuels prayer and witness.

C. Examine Our Obedience

A church that prays biblically will not remain inward. A believer who prays biblically will not remain silent.

D. Calls Us to Confidence



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God does not command prayer because He is uncertain. He commands prayer because He is sovereign.

God is not uncertain or reluctant to save. He has already provided the Mediator and paid the ransom through Christ. When the church prays, God moves, and the gospel goes forward. May we be a praying people who live with confidence, obedience, and compassion for the lost, for His glory and for the advance of the gospel to all people.



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