

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 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. 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.

Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

What? - First of all. Πρώτον/proton; in the first place, in first order

After establishing Timothy's need to teach sound doctrine in chapter 1, Paul gives an urgent instruction to sets as the first priority, prayer for the lost and people serving in positions of secular authority. Evangelistic prayer. **Why?** 1st, God desires more people to be saved, 2nd, there seems to be some kind of Judaistic legalism limiting the Gospel message in exclusion to all people.

I urge. There are over 100 places in the NT where we are urged to do something. It is almost always to stay away from something sinful or engage ourselves in something that is good for us.

What? - Entreaties, prayers, petitions, thanksgiving.

I'm sure this is going to challenge your faith and it is going to work for the purpose of your own 'godliness.'

Q: How often do we do the exact opposition of God's will from this? We shouldn't avoid the truth of political error, but as we walk the tight-rope of this world obedience will keep our balance.

OT examples.

Ezra 6:10 'that they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the kings and his sons.'

Ezekiel 18:23 'have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the LORD God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?'

Who? -All men.

Prayer in the church is not exclusive to one group of people. It is intended for 'all men.'

Where? - Kings and all in authority.

Q: What if our mayor, commissioners, superintendents came to our church and said that they read this passage and wondered if we ever spent regular time praying for them? Could we, with integrity, give them assurance that we are interceding for them?

Q: Did you know that every single public leader is appointed by God? Rom. 13:1 'there is no authority except from God and those that exist have been instituted by God'

Q: Does that mean we agree with everything authorities do? **Bible Ref.** Abraham/Abimelech, David/Saul, Esther/Darius, Daniel/Nebacuhnezzar, John the Baptist/Herod, Jesus/Pilate, Peter/Caiaphas, Paul/Fetus. **Church History Ref.** Calvin's Institutes to the King Charles of France, Various Puritans to the King of England, Danbury Baptists to Thomas Jefferson, John MacArthur to Gavin Newsome. During COVID, Pastors petitioned Gov. Inslee.

Why? - Tranquil and quiet life, godliness and dignity.

Tranquil, peaceful. Tranquil means not interrupted by outside forces.

Quiet, well-ordered. Quiets means not interrupted by inside forces. Confidence of Obedience to God through your motives.

Godly and dignified.

Godly; a devout piety. A sincere devotion to depend on God. Practically every example of Bible figures shows two things; a devote piety to God and a devote opposition the world's authority/agenda.

Dignified; the product of serious holiness.

This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.

Good/καλόν, kalon; it means handsome and useful. **Pleasing;** become acceptable and gain approval

God our Savior; θεός Σωτηρ. Look at this **polemic Paul** is giving before we go too far with embracing the deeds of ungodly governance.

Σωτηρ, savior; In **Roman cultural Caesar would call himself Caesar Soter, Caesar the Savior.** Kaiser Kurios, Christos Kurios, Polycarp's martyrdom.

God desires all men to be saved and know the truth.

One God, One Mediator, One Savior to all men, than man Christ Jesus.

The Testimony of Jesus Christ (for this is why Paul was appointed).

This is the desire that we should pray for the lost. Their knowledge of this. Conversion comes through knowing, knowing leads to heart change. You first have a change of mind then a change of heart. Pattern of Conversion.

Therefore. Pray with Holy hands without wrath/anger, dissension, quarreling.

Anger, wrath, dissension, quarreling are sure ways to move away from pleasing God.

Praying with holy hands is not some special concept or hand posture to achieve. It is merely an illustration of the way by which your hands are used in all things. Walk, bow, sit, set your mind; these are all figurative terms that express the pattern of your life.

Praying. What is prayer? How should we pray? What kind of prayer does God answer?

We see that the urgent call to prayer at the local church is for leaders in positions of authority. There is a two-part purpose, 1 for their salvation, 2. For our lives to be peaceful, and 3. It results in pleasing God who ultimately determines who will and won't receive the gift of faith in Jesus Christ for Salvation. As it is, we should dedicate time to praying for these people, 'with holy hands'/a lifestyle dedicate to godly living and this will serve as both