

THE PRIORITY AND PRACTICE OF PRAYER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH (1 Timothy 2:1-8)

- Prayer is ...

- A. **GENERALLY – God Wants PRAYER To Be An Integral Part of the Public Assembly. (2:1-7)**

- 1. **The IMPORTANCE of PRAYER. (vs. 1a)**

- a. This chapter begins with a shift from Paul’s instructions to Timothy _____ regarding his charge to guard and proclaim _____ (chapter 1) to instructions for the _____ as a whole regarding the importance of _____.
 - b. While the words “*first of all*” set forth the _____ in a series of subjects related to the public assembly (3:14-15), its placement also emphasizes its _____ in light of the spiritual warfare Christians are in. (1:18)

- 2. **The PRACTICE of PRAYER. (vs. 1b)**

- a. The phrase, “*I exhort*” emphasizes the need for believers to hear a strong, constant _____ or _____ to pray.
 - b. The fact that prayer needs to actually “*be made*” shifts the importance from good intentions to the _____ of a local church.

- 3. **The FORMS of PRAYER. (vs. 1c) Prayer can take on a variety of forms such as...**

- a. _____ — carries the idea of specific and intense entreaties for the needs of others or yourself. (James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:12)
 - b. _____ — a general word for prayer to God as part of worship and adoration.
 - c. _____ — carries the idea of having an audience with a king to make a bold petition with confidence for yourself or others.
 - d. _____ — this reflects an attitude of gratitude by thanking a gracious giver. Why is this an important element in prayer?

- 4. **The OBJECTS of PRAYER. (vs. 1d–2b)**

- a. *Generally*, prayers are to be made on behalf of _____. Who does this include?
 - b. *Specifically*, prayers are to be made on behalf of _____ and _____. Who did this include in Paul’s day?

5. The PURPOSES for PRAYER. (vs. 2c–7)

- a. *Personally*, specific prayer is needed “that we may lead a _____ and _____ life in all godliness _____ and reverence _____.”
- b. *Intrinsically*, prayer to God is “_____” as it should reflect proper dependence upon and worship of God.
- c. *Vertically*, prayer to God is “_____ in the sight of God” when it is not done to be praised by man or impress others.
- d. *Evangelistically*, prayer for all people is pleasing to God our Savior because He “desires _____ men to be _____ and to _____ to the _____ of the _____” of the Gospel.

* What myths are destroyed by this verse? What does “*saved*” mean? How is one “*saved*”?

* With God’s inclusive and intense desire for all to be saved comes 3 exclusive realities each person must face. They are...

* With God’s intense desire for the salvation of all, what did Jesus Christ do to make this salvation possible for all?

* Since “*faith comes by hearing*,” how does all this relate to Paul’s ministry and ours? What can you learn from this?

B. SPECIFICALLY – God Wants MEN To Lead In Prayer in the Public Assembly. (2:8)

Public prayer in the local church is...

1. to be led by _____. Does this prohibit women from praying in the public assembly?
2. to encompass the various forms of _____.
3. to be offered _____.
4. to be practiced _____ Christians assemble.
5. to be offered _____ regardless of the physical posture.
6. to be offered “without _____” toward men and without _____ toward God.

* What can you learn from all this?