

## 1 Timothy 2:1–8 prt 5

### MPS: We are to pray for the salvation of all people

#### INTRO

- We need servers in youth and kids
- Entering chapter 2 today
- Finishing chapter 2 next week with the most controversial passage in the entire book

**1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)** *15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

#### OPEN:

Praying for Dad's salvation

My own experience leading up to praying for him

How it unfolded

How I was confident when I preached his funeral.

### We are to pray for the salvation of all people

- My dad was actually for me. Paul here seems to be saying pray for those who aren't for you, those who oppose you, and perhaps even those who persecute you.
- Let's look at the bookend verses here to see the big idea is prayer:

**Vs 1** *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,*

**Vs 8** *I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;*

### We are to pray for the salvation of all people

#### 1. Pray for all people

**Vs 1** *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,*

"First of all" – of most importance.

- Praying for others should be woven into the life of believers.
- It's the way you ought to behave because of what you believe
- It should now be the architecture of your life – the love HE has poured on you flows out to other people and often the greatest love work you can do for another is consistently pray for them.

#### 4 ways to pray

- Supplications – for their needs
  - Prayers – convos with God about them
  - Intercessions – like I prayed for my dad
  - Thanksgivings – thankful for them
- Define all people
  - Verse 7 gives us some inclination of all people –

**Vs 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.*

**Acts 9:15 (ESV) 15** *But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and **kings** and the children of Israel.*

- Paul is an apostle to the gentiles (non Jews). In other words, salvation doesn't just belong to the Jews, God has now, as He promised in the OT, to extend salvation to the Gentiles. All people. (there is neither Jew nor Greek).
- When we go back to the beginning of the letter to see what Paul is telling Timothy – he is saying that false teachers, rooting in exclusivity of Judaism, are interrupting truth – the gospel.

#### Pray for all people:

##### a. Including those who oppose you.

- It's easy to pray for those who are for you – its easy to pray for those who like you - but its something completely different to pray for those who oppose you.

**Vs 2a** *for kings and all who are in high positions,*

- Then he gives examples – these gentile leaders, who are the epidemic of the kind of 'all people' you don't like. False teachers may be saying they are not worthy of salvation.
- All people, Jews, Gentiles, and ungodly Gentiles.
- This verse is more than simply praying for political leaders.
- Generally speaking, we should also pray for our political leaders, specifically in this Text, we should pray for their salvation.
- Nero was emperor – (thank him? Ask for his needs to be met?)

- God is more interested in salvation than our comfort
- Nero isn't their friend nor is Paul asking them to be his friend, just pray.

**Vs 2b** *that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.*

- Prayer is yet another means to peace in our lives. When rulers, politicians and those in authority are surrendered to HIS authority, humans flourish

**Proverbs 29:2** *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.*

- We should spend more time praying for the salvation of leaders than we do tearing them down with our words.

**Pray for all people:**

**b. Because it is good and pleasing to God**

**Vs 3** *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,*

- There should be something in us that wants to please God – not so he would love us and bless us, but because he loves us and blesses us.

**Pray for all people:**

**c. Because we get to join His desire to save the lost**

**Vs 4** *who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

- All people from Jews to gentiles – from presidents to poppers. God desires people to know Him.
- If it means EVERY PERSON rather than every KIND of person then:

**Galatians 3:28 (ESV) 28** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

**Colossians 3:11 (ESV) 11** *Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.*

**2. Pray for the salvation that comes through Christ alone.**

**Vs 5-6** *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.*

- A mediator is a go-between. He is one who stands between two or more persons or groups who are in a dispute and tries to reconcile them.
- In biblical terms, human beings are described as being at enmity against God. We rebel, revolt, and refuse to obey the law of God. As a result, God's wrath is upon us. For this catastrophic situation to be changed or redeemed it is necessary that we become reconciled to God.
- To effect our reconciliation, God the Father appointed and sent His Son to be our Mediator. In the eternal counsel of the Godhead there was complete agreement between the Father and the Son that the Son should come as our Mediator. Not an angel, not an earthly king, but God in the second person.
- Christ brings to us nothing less than the divine majesty of God Himself—He is God incarnate. Yet He took upon Himself a human nature and willingly submitted Himself to the demands of God's law.
- Christ did not initiate reconciliation in an attempt to persuade the Father to put aside His wrath. Rather, He did something else.

*who gave himself as a ransom for all*

- **Ransom** refers to purchasing someone's release
- He does not mediate by advice. He mediates by giving Himself. He mediated by substitution. By becoming a ransom.
- The ransom was paid on the cross. The resurrection is the receipt.
- God did not leave the Mediator in the grave. He raised Him, which means the payment was accepted and the way is open.
- But the ONLY mediator? There is only ONE way?

**John 14:6 (ESV) 6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

- This Text is both **Inclusive** (Not the strong, the elite, the privileged... a ransom FOR ALL) AND **exclusive** (only one way)
- **Religious pluralism** - is the view that several religions are independently valid paths to salvation or ultimate reality—not just one.

- The illustration of a mountain tells a false story about many paths to God – the fallacy is that in Christianity, we don’t take a path up to God – but God took the path down to us – our mediator and ransom!

#### CORORATE PRAYER APPLICATION:

Lord, thank you for saving me.

Lord, I pray for you to save \_\_\_\_\_

(from neighbors to nations, family members to enemies, even those who have wronged you)

#### **Those who govern us.**

Pray they would repent where they are corrupt, be given wisdom, and govern in such a way *that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.*

PRAY FOR THEIR SALVATION – if they are not saved.

**Albany:** Mayor Bo Dorough and the city commission. Wisdom for neighborhoods, schools, and safety.

**Georgia:** Governor Brian Kemp and our state legislators. Justice, care for the weak, and wise stewardship.

**Congress:** Senators Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, and Representative Sanford Bishop. Integrity, and a heart for what is true.

**The President:** Donald Trump and those who serve with him. Discernment, humility, and justice.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:**

1. Who is the hardest person for you to include when Paul says “all people”—a family member, an opponent, someone who hurt you, or a leader—and what would it look like to pray for their salvation this week?
2. Where are you tempted to treat Jesus as one path among many, and how does the Mediator who came down—not a path we climb—change the way you pray and speak about Him?