# May 2, 2021 Unit: How to Share Christ Session 2: START WITH PRAYER—1 Timothy 2:1-8

Last week we saw how important it is for us to tell others about Jesus—to be commissioned—to ask, wait, listen and obey. Today we realize that WE MUST START WITH PRAYER.

## THE SETTING

Paul was a pastoral mentor to Timothy (in Ephesus) and Titus (in Crete). He wrote them "Pastoral Epistles" to encourage and offer specific guidance in their ministries. Here are his verses focusing on prayer. We are to pray for everyone, align our prayers with God's desires, and pray with others for the sake of the gospel.

### **I TIMOTHY 2:1-2**

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

We are to pray <u>for all people</u>. Paul urges this with exhort=beg, entreat and encourage. "First of all" means <u>of primary importance</u> rather than first on the list.

We are to pray for ALL in authority. They help make our lives quiet and peaceful. Note that our lives are to be led in godliness (appropriate reverence for God, demonstrated in holy living.) What a witness for Christ! Holiness implies dignity and honesty.

Note the four ways we are to pray: requests (personal to God), prayers (all types), intercession (prayers for others), thanksgivings (gratitude).

I have noted a prayer reminder—five fingers which point to whom we must pray for:

Thumb=your family
Pointer Finger=personal leaders (preacher, Sunday School teachers, police,
county supervisors)
Tallest Finger=national and world leaders
Ring Finger=followers
Pinkie finger=yourself

WE ARE TO PRAY FOR ALL PEOPLE.

## **I TIMOTHY 2:3-6**

"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time."

Now we are reminded to pray for those who need salvation! This passage presents God's testimony for our salvation. Jesus Christ is our <u>mediator</u>, the perfect one to reconcile humanity to the Father. Christ became our ransom; He was the acceptable sacrifice for our sins.

"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law that we might receive the full rights of sons."~Galatians 4:4-5

# **ITIMOTHY 2:7-8**

"And for this purpose, I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth. I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing."

Paul gives his own ministry here as an example for praying for <u>everyone</u>. He was a Herald (announcing important news), an Apostle (sent by God), and Teacher (chosen to minister to the gentiles). We should consider ourselves as heralds, apostles and teachers also!

### **Summary**

We've heard it said: "There's nothing left to do but pray" and "All we can do now is pray." Both statements indicate that prayer is a last resort. But really, PRAYER IS THE BEGINNING POINT. We must pray for wisdom and guidance upon how to act.

- 1) First, we must make time each day for focused prayer.
- 2) We need to make a prayer list.
- 3) God will make opportunities for you to talk with those you have been praying for. Trust God to supply His words.

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