

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

In the local church in Ephesus there was the problem of false teaching that was distracting the church from its mission of preaching the gospel and making disciples.

Paul writes to Timothy and the big message is... "Sort out the church for the sake of the gospel!"

The first way he is to do this is found in 1 Timothy 1:1-2:7 where he is told to silence the false teachers and fight for the gospel.

He should fight for the gospel because it saves sinners (1:15) and changes lives (1:5)

This fighting for the gospel begins in us (1:18-20).

How does the church fight for the gospel?

A. By praying for all people especially those in authority

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." (v1-2)

1. Praying for all people.

Prayer is the number 1 priority – first priority in what you do.

'All' kinds of prayers:

Supplications – seeking help from someone who can meet the needs.

Prayers – pouring out our hearts to God.

Intercessions – seeking God on behalf of others.

Thankgivings – gratitude to God for who He is, what He's done, all that He does.

For 'all' kinds of people.

Amazing scope of that word 'all' (in both instances).

2. Praying for those in authority.

At the time Nero was the Roman Emperor.

Pray that the state will leave the church alone – won't make restricting rules, allow persecution.

Pray for conditions that will allow the gospel to spread to all people.

Pray that they don't stop Christians from preaching the gospel.

Pray that they don't stop Christians from living lives that attract people to Jesus.

B. Why do we pray for all people especially those in authority?

"This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is 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), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth." (v3-7)

1. Because God's desire is save all people.

God's character includes a longing that everyone He has made comes into relationship with Him.

Praying for all people is praying in a way that pleases God.

2. Because Jesus died as a ransom for all people.

Jesus' death is sufficient for the sins of everyone.

He died to bring us to God.

It is His death that makes it possible for us to pray for all people.

Praying for all people is praying that Jesus will save them.

3. Because we have a mission to all people.

Our mission is to tell all people about God's desire to save them through the death of His Son.

Praying for all people is praying that our mission will find success.

C. Application

1. Does our desire that all people are saved permeate our prayers as a local church?

2. How can we lead this local church in praying for all people especially those in authority?

By praying for all people ourselves – Do we pray for everyone we know? Do we pray for people we walk past? Do we pray for people we read about in papers, see on TV? (e.g. saying grace for takeaway)

By modelling it in our own prayers – Sunday services, weekly prayer meeting.

By encouraging people to pray in this way – weekly prayer meeting.