

Date: December 6, 2020
Message: "THE CALL TO PRAYER (PART 1)"
Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-8
Speaker: Steve Balvanz

The focus of the opening verses of chapter 2 is prayer. Not just prayer in general, but rather a call to prayer with a view toward evangelism, because the greatest need of mankind at any time is salvation that only comes by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

I. The _____ of Prayer (v.1a)

"First of all, then, I urge you..."

II. The _____ of Prayer (v.1b)

"...that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men"

"The precise distinction between these terms need not be pressed; Paul's object is to insist on the centrality of prayer rather than to provide a systematic analysis of its types." (J.N.D. Kelly)

A. Entreaties

B. Prayers

C. Petitions

D. Thanksgivings

III. The _____ to Pray for (v.1b, 2a)

Paul urged that the believers in Ephesus pray for people *outside* their congregations.

A. All men — "be made on behalf of all men"

The universality of the gospel, the fact that it is for everyone, was Paul's passion.

B. Governing authority — "for kings and all who are in authority"

Paul did not urge his readers to fight with their governing authorities, but to pray for them.

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A. A peaceful life

“so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity”

“tranquil” — a life free from outward disturbance—a peaceful life

“quiet” — a life without turmoil, not necessarily silent

“godliness and dignity” — righteous behavior that can be seen by others

“This is a life of unadvertised worship, devotion, and piety that manifests itself externally in a subtle yet powerful way.”

“The indisputable fact is the best argument for or against Christianity is Christianity—or more precisely, how Christians practice their Christianity. Christianity lived out can make inroads where few other things can.” (Kent Hughes)

B. A view toward evangelism

“God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”

“Verse 2 merely “hints” at the real purpose of praying for the rulers. Paul certainly does not mean to encourage a life of ease. His aims are never selfish. Rather, the idea is this: freedom from disturbances, such as wars and persecutions, will facilitate the spread of the gospel of salvation in Christ to the glory of God.” (William Hendriksen)

“Times of political and social upheaval are excellent times in which to die for Christ, but hard times in which to live for Him.” (Bible Knowledge Commentary)

Verse 4 was not written to spark theological debate, but rather to express God’s heart desire that all sinners would be saved, and that Christians would possess such a heart as well.

“‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live’ (Ezek. 33:11)

We must *pray* for all men and *evangelize* all men without partiality or distinction. Is that your heart and practice today?

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