

1Timothy 2:3-7

Three Great Motivations for Every Christian to the Ministry of Prayer

Thursday, September 29, 2022 • Read 1Timothy 2:3-7

Questions from the Scripture text: What two things does v3 say about this praying for all men? In whose sight is it good and acceptable? Who is God to us? Whom does He desire to be saved (v4)? How does this salvation happen? How many other gods are there (v5)? How many other saviors? What role, between God and men, did God Himself have take in order to save us? What did He have to become? Who is the Man that He became? What did He do as a man (v6)? What is done about this ransom, when? Who was appointed to do it (v7)? By what action? In what role/office? What other truth does he proclaim as an apostle of Christ? Whom, especially, is he sent to teach? In what two "subjects" is he their teacher?

What are we participating in when we pray? 1Timothy 2:3-7 looks forward to the second serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **when we pray, we join a work in which God Himself has become Mediator and ransom for men, and appointed preachers teach us what to believe in and believe.**

Our praying for all men (v1) and aiming at a godly life (v2) is a blessed endeavor for several reasons.

It pleases God, v3. It is good and acceptable in the sight of God. For the believer, that's all the rationale and incentive that we need for doing something.

It participates in the saving work of God, v3-6a. Now, we must not get the idea that there is any saving merit or power in our praying. The participation of prayer is a privilege from God, not a help to Him. God is our Savior (v3b). He alone is God (v4), for which He had to become Mediator.

The astonishing thing is what was necessary for Him to be Mediator. First, He had to bridge the gap between God and men. This must obviously be done from God's side; man could not bridge that gap. So, God became a Man: the Man Christ Jesus. Second, a ransom as big as the glory of God had to be paid. So not only did Jesus have to become a man, He Himself had to be offered up as a ransom.

And the God Who has become this and done this to save us... He welcomes us into His working by calling us and commanding us to prayer?! What an unfathomable privilege this praying is!

It is the particular ministry calling of all Christians, v6b-7. God had a planned time for the incarnation. God had a planned time for the paying of the ransom. And God had a planned time for the testifying of the Mediator and His ransom (end of v6). The preaching through which the gospel is applied is something whose every detail is planned and appointed by God. Christ appointed Paul to be a preacher (v7).

Today, men like Timothy are appointed preachers by Christ in the office of elder, but Paul was appointed preacher in the office of apostle. In fact, as he says in v7, even his words about his appointment are truth that are spoken *in Christ*. Part of the preaching of the gospel is the preaching that it is Christ Himself Who superintends gospel proclamation. Specifically, Paul has been assigned to the Gentiles as their teacher of things pertaining to faith and truth.

We see what an encouragement this is to organize and order the church the way that we read it in this letter. These aren't suggestions; they're commands. And they are commands that carry the honor and dignity of privileged participation in the saving plan of God. If in the role of an "ordinary" believer, we are called to participate by prayer, then we should do it with all the relish with which Paul fulfilled his calling as apostle and Timothy and others were expected to fulfill their calling as elders.

What roles do you have in the church? In your home? What are some spiritual tasks that you are called to in this role? What effort should you put forth in this role? With what emotions/affections?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for being our Savior. Thank You for being the Mediator that You alone could be. Thank You for reconciling us through Your incarnation and Your sacrifice on the cross. Forgive us because our appreciation for Christ and His cross is weak. Thank You for giving us the privilege of participating in Your saving plan, even by our prayers for all men. Forgive us for not taking this privilege seriously or carrying it out with diligence and joy. Grow us, we pray, by the grace of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP1 "How Blessed the Man" or TPH520 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

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First Timothy 2 verses 3 through 7. These are God's words for this is good and acceptable. In the sight of God our Savior who desires all men to be saved. And to come to the knowledge of the truth for there is one God. And one mediator between God and men, The man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all to be testified and due time for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle.

I'm speaking the truth in Christ and not lying a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

So far the reading of God's inspired and and Aaron toward. It's giving us here. Reasons for us to Pray to make all supplications prayers intercessions and giving of thanks for all men and then especially for kings. And those who are an authority. And he gives us three reasons here in this passage, or at least these three reasons.

First that this praying please as God Second that this praying is a privilege that the Lord has given us of participation in the work that God Himself alone can do. We cannot do it but he gives us prayer. He honors us with a the part participation that is prayer, which, of course, even prayer, we can do, only independence upon him.

And by his grace. But that So the second reason is that, praying participates in the saving work of God. And in the third reason is that it is the particular calling of all Christians. He highlights his own calling and he is doing. So, in the context of reminding, Timothy throughout the letter about Timothy's calling, even as he is instructing Timothy for the calling of other men.

But his calling and Timothy's calling apply to a limited number of people, as we are going to find out in the next few passages, but the calling to pray as a command given to all that is a particular calling. So three reasons here for us to do this praying that we heard about last week in verses 1 through 3 and we're taking verse 3

again, as a hinge verse beginning, this week with the verse that we ended last week that pleases God, praying participates in the saving work of God and praying is a particular calling particular ministry of all Christians First then it pleases God says for this is good and acceptable.

In the sight of God, our Savior who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. And so God has saved us. He saved us because he wanted to, he is God, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

And so he who has saved us, has told us that it pleases him to do so and if he is pleased to do, so what do you think we should pray for? Should we pray for the things that please us or the things that please? God, you should pray.

Of course, for the things that please God, We make our requests known to him in prayer. But prayer is one of those means of his grace, one of those tools that God uses to work, graciously in us and as we the creature come to him the Creator as we the child come to him, the Father as we the citizen come to him the king and we make requests.

We do. So, in a way, that reminds us that he is the one who is an authority, that he is, the one who is good. And so even as we make, our requests prayer, is a form is a help to our submission and it's an active submission. Even the Lord Jesus.

His it was perfectly righteous. Remember brought his request and yet prayer was an act of submission saying that that which That which he shrunk from he was eager to do. If it is, since in that case, it was the will of the Father. If at all possible. Take this cup from me.

Nevertheless not my will but thine be done and we must not read our own sinful begrudgingness into. Jesus is nevertheless, we should read his holy resolve. His perfect submission is eagerness to do. Even that, which is That from which he shrinks and that, which is painful and that which he would not do for any other reason, but the desire of his father and the goodness of that which is fire, father desires is perfectly good.

Abundantly good reason. And so we have here for it, is good and acceptable. And the side of God, our Savior who desires all men to be saved. So we pray in the first place because it pleases God, How often we come to decisions where we're not sure hot pleases.

God. And Sometimes the reason we're not sure is because our flash is clouding. Our judgment. And we would like to find out that it pleases God to please ourselves in those situations. But there are many times in which we are not sure what the best to write thing to do is in a situation.

This is never true about prayer. We know that praying according to the Word of God. Please as God. And so it is a sweet thing to come as a Christian and pray for all men to come and pray for kings and those who are in authority to come and pray.

That believers would be peaceful in their conduct and peaceful in their hearts and their characters. That believers would be godly towards men and their godly towards God and reverent. Even in a way that men can see to pray for these things, please. As God it is good and acceptable and the sight of God our Savior.

And we want to do what is good and what is acceptable for him who has saved us? So that's one. Excellent motivation to prayer. The sweetness of knowing that we are doing exactly as God desires of us, sort of like, however, sort of, like whenever you get instruction or command from your mom or your dad, you suddenly know exactly what you should do.

No questioning no doubting the decision of what to do. Next is just been made for you and you don't have to worry at all about the fact about whether, you know, what would please God to do right now. Yeah, if mom gives you a command, you don't say, mmm.

I need to pray about that. No, you you just obey your mother? You honor your mother. Well, praying is You can pray while you do it, obviously, right? Because praying. Fleas is God The second reason is a participates in the saving work of God. Not only does God desire, all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

But he who alone could be the mediator between God and men has done. So there is one God, and one mediator between God and men. This is the miracle of the Incarnation for someone to mediate between God and men who would have to be God and man, but how can you do that when there's only one God?

Well, the answer is he who alone is. God would have to add to himself humanity. He would have to become a man in order to mediate in order to as Job, cried out. And wished could happen for him. Oh, if there was someone who could lay his hands on us both and arbitrate mediate.

But God himself has become the mediator. There is one God and one mediator between God and men. The man Christ. Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all who he who alone could be the mediator because he would be able to put his hand on God. And on man is also he who alone could be the ransom, No one can give a ransom for his own soul says the Psalm.

But Jesus can give their ransom, not just for one soul but for all souls. Yes. Sophia. But the lyrics, some Ransom is a price that is paid to save someone from being a slave or being killed. In this case, it's a price that Jesus paid to keep us from going to hell and to win our freedom so that we would no longer be slaves of sin, but could be made, obedient children.

And so he has paid for our justification that we would be made righteous before God and the hell that we deserved would be taken away. And he has paid for our adoption that. Instead of being the slaves of sin, we would be the joyful obedient children of the Living.

God. Jesus paid for us to be joined to him to become his brothers and sisters to have his spirit of sunship come and be in our hearts and train us to be children. Like Jesus is to be conformed, which means made into the shape, or formed into the pressed into the shape of Jesus to be children.

So, he has paid the ransom and not just for for one man, but for all he gave himself to be a ransom for all. So this is the work that only God could do but we get to participate in it by praying. We pray for all men. Why? Because God desires all men to be saved.

Now there is that which God says would be good for all men and then there is that which God gives to all men to, not to all men to some men, even though they don't deserve it. And so one is the prescriptive will of God that which he prescribes and says as the right thing to do, but not all men.

Does desire, the right thing? Like God does We who are Christians are supposed to desire it and we're supposed to express that we desire? What God desires. When we pray for people to be saved but not everyone, there's no one who deserves to be able to agree with God.

And so the decree of will of God that which God decided even though he didn't have to just because it pleases him, he has chosen to be merciful to those who don't deserve mercy. He's been chosen to be merciful to those who are his enemies. He's chosen to be merciful to those whom.

He would have been righteous to cast into hell and that choice is what we call the decretal or decreative will of God, what he has decreed to do. So there's that which he prescribes that we should do the prescriptive will of God and there's that which he has decreed that he would do the decreative or the critical will of God.

But only God can do what God does. We can't be the mediator between God and men. We can't ransom people. What can we do? What we can do, what he has given us the honor and privilege of doing to pray because one of the ways that God has decreed that he would save is in response to the praying of His people.

He decrees not only the action, but the means and he's a God who uses means. And so he has been pleased to be the hearer and answerer of prayer. So not only does it please God when we pray but it participates and what God is doing. We didn't have to give us that participation.

It's an honor, it's a privilege. We should be amazed that he would give us that privilege and we should lay hold of it. Not despise this great honor that God has given us by failing to pray, And finally, it's a particular ministry. Calling of all Christians. He gave himself a ransom for all verse 6 to be testified in due time.

So, God has promised and fulfilled, not only the accomplishing of redemption, which Jesus did in his life and death and resurrection, but also the applying of his redemption to those four, whom he died, which Jesus does through preaching and hearing. We've been hearing that in acts, haven't we, especially on Paul's missionary journey is as he has been preaching and telling the people that Jesus didn't stop working to save when he had accomplished redemption.

When we had fulfilled, the promise of atoning for sin, that Jesus was still and is still now even working to save by sending those who are His witnesses to testify and proclaim, Testify of his salvation, and proclaim his salvation. And that Jesus will give faith to those for whom he died, as he causes his word to be preached.

And so believers have not just the offer of participation, but they have particular callings. Paul says of himself for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle. Now is it optional for Paul to go? No, it's not optional for him to go because he's an apostle. A sent one is a calling for Paul to preach the gospel.

No. Even like we heard in Romans chapter 1, he is under debt. He is a debtor. He is under obligation to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was appointed a preacher and an apostle and we've already seen and we'll continue to see in the rest of this letter.

And the next one Timothy is under obligation. He has had his hands laid on him. He has had the word preached to him that his ordination requires him to preach the gospel for myself, too. As a dad, I am under obligation to teach you the Word of God as a properly identified and called and ordained minister of the gospel.

Whoa, onto me. If I don't preach I am like Paul or the Ephesian elders in Acts 20, who if I don't proclaim the whole Council of God to those whom the Lord has set under my ministry, then I am guilty of their blood and worse than their physical blood.

I'm guilty of their spiritual life. If I don't proclaim the whole Council of God. And so Paul's here saying I was appointed a preacher and an apostle I speak the truth in Christ and speaking the truth in Christ and not lying. In other words he says this isn't just a way of talking to apply pressure.

This is a reality. Jesus has appointed him to be sent and to preach. And so, for Timothy Jesus, has appointed him to be an elder in Ephesus and to appoint other elders. Whom Jesus will be the one who appoints and they have to preach, and they have to teach and they have to shepherd because Jesus has appointed them and he says a teacher of the Gentiles and faith and truth and this faith and truth in verse 7 mirrors.

Verse 4, he desires all men to be saved that. They would believe in Jesus, we saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. So in God's work of bringing people to faith and truth, he gives particular, men particular callings, he gives Paul the calling of being a preacher and apostle He gives Timothy the calling of being a pastor and we're going to hear an evangelist and and so far so forth.

And he gives to every one of you, the calling of prayer Not necessarily leading in prayer. We're going to see in the next passage that those who lead in prayer or specifically men. But if you are male, you have a calling of leading in prayer. And as you especially come into your manhood, you need to start practicing leading in prayer.

When we have the family time at the end of the prayer meeting, for instance, all of our boys should be finding things that are on the list and it doesn't have to be long or impressive. But practicing. And then as you grow into your manhood, then when we have the times as a congregation all of the men, anyway, that's next week's thing.

So not all are called to lead in prayer, but all are called to pray. It's not optional, you're under obligation. Just like Paul was under obligation as an apostle and Timothy was under obligation as a pastor. So also a Christian is under obligation, as a Christian to pray. So, three reasons to do this praying that we heard about last week as we looked, especially at verses one and two, but as we looked at verses 1 through 3 first, it pleases God, Second it participates.

It's an honor that God has given us and to participate in the saving work of God and third, it is the particular ministry calling of every individual Christian. It's not obligate, it's not optional, It's an obligation as a Christian. You are called to this ministry. The prayer man. Let's pray our Father in heaven.

We thank you for this amazing thing. That's amazing mechanism by which you have decided to work which takes this means of your gracious work in us and also makes it for us an opportunity to please. You have saved us and we pray that you would warm our hearts with love towards you.

That we would love to please you and therefore that we would find prayer pleasant as well. We pray that you would give us a sense of the high honor and privilege the nobility, and dignity of participating in taking apart that you have given us, you who do the work O God.

And yet have given us to participate by calling upon you through. Jesus. So we pray that you would help us in our praying even to view it this way. And then Lord, we pray that you would press home upon us by your spirit, the obligation of praying that we would feel it a duty and that we would be conscientious and diligent zealous and fervent in doing that, which you have commanded us in our office as it were as Christians.

Help us O. Holy Spirit for we confess that, we find it hard to pray. Even though we know these wonderful things about it. Oh, we bless your name for your goodness, to us, and we bless your name for your patience. With us as our flesh. Has hindered us from seeing how good and necessary.

And honorable praying is grant that we would not walk according to the flesh, but that by you and your power, Holy Spirit, we would put to death, the deeds of the body grant that we, our family would be a praying people. Every one of us for we ask it in Jesus name, Amen.