



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Pray

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The First Epistle of Paul to Timothy (AD 62-64), a letter that Paul, the apostle to the gentiles, wrote to Timothy, his beloved son in the faith. Timothy was a Jew and a Gentile; his father was a Greek (Acts 16:1) and His mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, were Jews who became believers in Jesus Christ (2 Ti 1:5). Timothy was a believer in Jesus Christ and well-versed in Paul's theology and doctrine. Paul likely wrote this epistle from Macedonia after his release from his first Roman imprisonment and after he revisited several of the cities where he had started ministries, and after placing Timothy in the Ephesus church. Paul placed Timothy in Ephesus to deal with problems that had developed in that local church body, including false teachings, lack of order in worship and criteria for leaders in the church. Paul commands Timothy to, "...fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regards to their faith." (1:18b-19). After a faith-filled greeting, a description of the challenges in the local church and providing encouragement to Timothy, Paul first urges Timothy and the church to pray. (1 Ti: 1-6 NASB)

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 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 also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time."(1-6)

Paul instructs Timothy and the believers in the church at Ephesus to **pray for all men**, including kings (**government authorities**) and for those in authority (**church, business & home leaders**). What is the desire of God?

"God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (3b-4)

Paul is not stating that God saves everyone; however, he may be referring to God taking no delight in the death of the wicked and unrepentant (Ezek 18:32) and that God's desire is that all types of people, Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female, kings and the average person, be saved and come to the knowledge of truth.

Of what truth is Paul referring? We see first that Paul addresses God as our Savior (1:1 & 2:3b). God by His nature is a saving God and is the source of our salvation. What are the additional truths that Paul addresses?

"For there is one God," (5) Paul states that there is only one God and infers the false nature of any other man made gods. There is no other way of salvation except through the one true God (Acts 4:12). How does man mediate with God?

"and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus," (5b) Paul relates to Timothy that there is One that mediates or arbitrates between God and man and can restore peace between God and sinful man and that the man is Christ Jesus. What was the price Jesus Christ paid?

"Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time."(5b-6) With the death of Jesus on the cross, He paid the price or ransom to free the people from their sins. (Mt. 20:28; Jn 3:16)

Because of God's love, mercy and grace, demonstrated through Jesus Christ's atoning death on the cross, He makes available, by faith, the only way for people to be forgiven of their sins and the ability to spend eternity with the One and only God our Savior.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you believe in the One and only God? A saving God?
- Who is Jesus to you? Your One and only mediator; Savior and Lord?
- Are you trying to be good enough or to work your way into heaven or have you accepted God's gift of His Son, Jesus who paid the ransom or price for your sins that you could not pay?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44