



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Pray For All Men

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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 verse 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 places 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 Timothy 2:1 NASB)

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men," (2:1)

Pray for All Men. Paul directs Timothy and the church to pray for all men. The two main ministries of a pastor are the Word of God and prayer. (Acts 6:4) In the first chapter Paul deals with the ministry of the Word and in the second chapter Paul's focus is prayer. Paul understood that the Holy Spirit worked in the church, the believers, through the Word of God and prayer. (Eph 3:20-21 & 1 Thes 2:13)

It appears that one of the issues that had plagued the church at Ephesus was that their prayer nature was wrong and they likely had stopped praying for the salvation of all men and had been praying for the elite only. Paul describes to Timothy and the believers what needs to be included in the nature of prayers.

Entreaties and Prayers. Paul shares that the nature of prayer's include entreaties (Gk *deesis*; to make known particular needs or supplication) and prayers (Gk *proseuche*; to offer prayer, worship, or adoration) for all the lost people and not just for the converted or elite. The biggest need or entreaties was for the lost to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (4).

Petitions and Thanksgiving. Additionally, Paul shares that the nature of prayer's needs to include petitions; (Gk *enteuxis*; to appeal to God) and thanksgiving (Gk *eucharistial*; thanksgiving or expression of gratitude to God). Paul calls the believers to petition or appealing to God on behalf others and to offer thanksgiving or appreciation to God for what He has done. While the believer is called to pray for the church family, they are called to pray for all men, that they may come to know the truth, that God is a just, gracious, merciful and saving God.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you pray for all people?
- Do you specifically ask God to soften all hearts so that they may come to the truth?
- Are you thankful for all in life that God provides?

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