

1 Timothy

Lesson 2 — Sincere Prayer (2.1-7)

The first section of chapter 2 has Paul giving instruction to the Ephesian church through Timothy concerning prayer. While this is a topic he will develop further (2.8), here Paul focuses on the reality that Christians ought to pray for all people — including those in civil government. Understanding that 1-2 Timothy are written in a context of persecution, Paul's instructions take on a significant weight. Yes, we may be mistreated, but God still wants to save those people (2.4), so who am I to refuse to pray for them?

- 1) Verse 1 provides a sketch of the different prayers we offer — can you identify some differences in these prayers?
A) _____
- 2) For what two entities were the Ephesians instructed to pray? (2.2)
A) _____
- 3) What kind of lives ought Christians to be living? (2.2)
A) _____
- 4) What is good and acceptable in God's sight?
A) _____
- 5) What is a mediator?
A) _____
- 6) What was to occur "at the proper time"? (2.6 — read carefully)
A) _____

THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why is it helpful to identify and study different types of prayers like we see in 2.1 or Philippians 4.6?
- 2) When we don't know what to pray for, what should we pray for?
- 3) How does a passage like 1 Timothy 2.1-4 fit into the current political tensions in our country today?