1 Timothy Study, Lesson 2

GOD WANTS ALL PEOPLE TO BE SAVED

(A Good Minister Leads People to Pray)

1 Timothy 2:1–15

Key Verses: 2:3–4

\* Paul’s instructions to Timothy in this chapter pertain especially to gatherings in God’s household.

1. Read verse 1. What did Paul urge “first of all”? Think especially about the importance of intercession for everyone. When we gather in God’s household, what things other than prayer do we tend to do first? Why should a good minister pray first instead of getting engrossed in problems, and lead others to do the same?
2. Particularly, for whom does Paul ask us to pray, and what effect does this have? (2) Based on this, how should we broaden our prayer life practically? Read verses 3–4. Why does prayer for all people please God? (2Pe3:9) What clear prayer topic can we find in verse 4?
3. Read verses 5–6a. To whom and through whom should we pray? (Ac4:12; Jn14:6,14) In the midst of religious pluralism, why must a good minister be sure of this? How did Jesus’ ransom sacrifice open the way to God and inspire us to pray for all people? (Heb10:19–20; 1Jn2:1b–2)
4. Read verse 6b. Who are the witnesses of Christ’s becoming the only mediator for all people? (Lk24:44–48; 1Co15:3–8) Read verse 7. For what clear purpose, then, was Paul appointed? (Ro15:15–16) How can we receive this same purpose (Ro1:5), and why is this important for a good minister?
5. Read verse 8. Based on God’s salvation plan, what should men, in every place and every station of life do? What does with “holy” hands mean? (Isa1:15–17) How does “anger or disputing” hinder prayer, and how can we overcome them? (Mk11:25)
6. What concerns did Paul raise about women gathering in the Ephesian church? (9b) What did he say is appropriate for women who profess to worship God? (9a,10) What general principles[[1]](#footnote--1) did Paul give for women in God’s household, and why? (11–15[[2]](#footnote-0)) How can a good minister help women find their role and encourage them to pray?

1. This is a controversial passage. Scripture clearly teaches that men and women were both created in God’s image and received mission from God (Ge1:27–28). Also, in many places in Scripture women served God and his people actively (Lk8:2–3; Mt28:8–10; Jn4:29,39; 20:17; Ac18:26; Romans 16:1,6; Tit2:3b, etc.). In Christ Jesus we are all one, regardless of gender (Gal3:28). Later in 1 Timothy, in the midst of instructions about church leadership Paul encourages women to be good examples (3:11), and godly widows, to serve in the ministry (5:3,9–10). So 1 Timothy 2:11–15 should be understood in the context of the Bible as a whole. [↑](#footnote-ref--1)
2. The expression “saved through childbearing” seems to refer to not justification but sanctification, specifically through fulfilling God’s good purpose for a woman to be a wife and mother, even though it is painful (Ge3:16; 1Ti5:14; Tit2:3–5). [↑](#footnote-ref-0)