

"First Of All, Prayer"

1 Timothy 2: 1-7
October 19, 2014

The Gospel Charge Is The Purity Of Heart That Is The Fruit Of Correct Doctrine, Faith & Love, (vs. 3 - 4)

Message Emphasis: Many today misunderstand the true nature of prayer. Prayer is not simply the enumeration of wishes, desires or concerns. Rather, prayer is the lifeline with God that is vital for all Christian activity. We MUST understand that to accomplish anything in the battle of faith, we MUST do so ONLY because we are connected to God first.

The Gospel Charge Reveals The Purposes Of God In Human Affairs, (vs. 2:1 - 7)

- Individual & Corporate connectedness is of 1st importance *It is more than mere "prayer," it is being connected*

First of all, then, I urge that *"For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."* (Hebrews 6:10-12, ESV)

 - **Connectedness is urgent – supplications,** *Our view of the world changes; we see the urgent need*

"Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" (Genesis 18:23)
 - **Connectedness requires speaking – prayers,** *Our view of salvation & adoption changes; we see God more clearly*

"Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9-10, ESV)
 - **Connectedness is "others focused" – intercessions,** *Our view of redemption changes; we see our call and purpose*

"And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." (James 5:15-16, ESV)
 - **Connectedness is accepts proactively – and thanksgivings be made (Pres.Pas.Inf) for all people,** *Our view of acceptance changes*

"But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness." (Romans 6:17-18, ESV)
- Individual & Corporate blessedness flows out of our connection *Our view of blessing changes; we desire what God does*

for kings and all who are (Pres.Act.Part) in high positions,

 - **Connectedness seeks peace, not advantage – that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life,** *We take on a degree of passivity*

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." (Titus 2:11-14, ESV)
 - **Connectedness seeks godliness, not materialism – godly and dignified in every way.** *We take on a degree of asceticism*

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:9-12, ESV)

What Must I Do To Fulfill The Charge?

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ will you be connected to God in a way that prepares you to be used in the kingdom of heaven.

7. The Gospel Charge Highlights God's Institution of Authority In Daily Living, (vs. 8 - 15)
8. The Gospel Charge Specifically Qualifies Those Who Are Called To Instruct In Doctrine, (vs. 3: 1 - 7)
9. The Gospel Charge Specifically Qualifies Those Who Are Called To Lead In Service, (vs. 8 - 13)
10. The Gospel Charge Summarizes How We Live In The Mystery Of The Gospel, (vs. 14 - 16)
11. The Gospel Charge Clarifies That All Things Created By God Are Good, (vs. 4: 1 - 5)