

## INTRODUCTION

In the household of God, the church, prayer is a matter of first importance!

Our great aim in prayer is that sinners be saved, and toward that wonderful goal, there is much praying to be done! Our Lord Jesus has set us the example; He prayed:

-Thy will be done: each person prays for himself, that God will help him obey, and will use that obedience toward the salvation of sinners

-Keep them from the evil one: we all pray for each other and for the whole church, that we will not fall from the faith, but will have such a loving unity that sinners will see our Savior truly was sent here by God

-Forgive them, for they do not know what they do: we all pray for sinners, that they will hear the gospel, believe it, and repent of their sins, and so be saved in Jesus Christ

This is the kind of prayer to which our Lord's apostle is exhorting us here in 1 Timothy chapter 2. But in mentioning prayer, the apostle gives a very brief aside or digression, teaching us another reason for prayer, and exhorting us to it. We take it up today, temporarily interrupting the main flow of the exhortation about praying for the salvation of sinners.

For me, this instruction about prayer provides a much-needed way of escape from the temptation to be anxious about what appears in every news headline: violent trends in our society, apparent severe corruption in our own governments, and the threat of all kinds of disruptions of the peace and freedom we have enjoyed for so long.

The word of God here teaches us an important part of how we in the household of God deal with such things: we pray!

## TEXT

1 Timothy 2:2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

## BODY

### I. The Church Lives a Life of Godliness and Honesty

A. We Christians, the disciples of Jesus Christ, the church, live a life that consists of two aspects: Godliness, the expression of our love for God, and honesty, the expression of our love for our fellow men.

1. to express that first part here in this verse, “godliness” has been used consistently here over the centuries
2. to express that second part, we have used a number of different words: honesty, gravity, dignity, holiness, reverence

B. And this life of love toward God and toward men, we seek to live in ALL godliness and honesty; we seek to live this life godly and dignified in every way

C. Godliness: the expression of our love for God

#### 1. at home

- a) read the bible
- b) pray
  - (1) at meal times
  - (2) at bed time
  - (3) other times
- c) teach the catechism
- d) have the children memorize
  - (1) bible verses
  - (2) Lord’s Prayer
  - (3) Ten Commandments
- e) teach by homeschool
- f) post bible verses on the walls

#### 2. in the assembly on the Lord’s Day

- a) take the day off from work, school, and other activities
- b) assemble publicly at the church of our choosing
- c) hold to what confession of faith we deem best
- d) read the bible in our own language
- e) pray what prayers we choose
- f) sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
- g) preach and teach the bible, and listen to the preaching and teaching

(1) Jesus Christ has died for our sins, has been buried, and on the third day rose again

(2) now all who repent, turning from their sins to God, believing in Jesus Christ, receive forgiveness of sins from God, and everlasting life

h) we eat a fellowship meal together

i) we take the Lord's Supper, stating what we understand it to mean

j) we baptize, as the bible says to do it

k) we recognize new members; we expel misbehaving members

l) we freely change to some other church if we consider it necessary

D. Honesty: the expression of our love for other people---all men, and our fellow believers in Christ especially

1. we do them no hurt; we cause them to suffer no loss

a) neither by intentional actions

b) nor by negligence

2. if we have abundance, and they are in need, we share with them

3. we treat them as we would have them to treat us

4. we do not condone their sins; we do not approve their evil; we do not join with them in sinning

5. we love to pay them a fair price for what they are selling; we love to charge them a fair price for what we are selling

6. we tell no lies about them, neither on purpose, nor accidentally by repeating things we don't know to be true

7. we submit to those who are over us, rendering to every one what he is due

8. we work faithfully in our jobs, so we give good service to our employers and our customers, and so we earn the living our families need

E. We live this life of love willingly, as those who have been born again by the work of the Holy Spirit in us

The church lives a life of godliness and honesty

- II. We Desire This Life of Godliness and Honesty to Be a Quiet and Peaceable Life
  - A. As we, the disciples of Jesus Christ, lead this godly and honest life, we desire to be undisturbed in it.
    - 1. we desire this to be a quiet life, undisturbed by anything coming in from outside
      - a) we don't want anyone coming into our country, our state, our county, our city and disturbing us
      - b) we don't want this to be done by an invading army
      - c) we don't want this to be done by a criminal cartel or syndicate
      - d) we don't want this to be done by individual criminals
    - 2. we desire this to be a peaceable life, undisturbed by anything rising up from within
      - a) we don't want any of our fellow citizens disturbing us with any kind of criminal activity against us
      - b) we don't want any of our own government officials disturbing us when we haven't done anything wrong
  - B. We desire this in both aspects of our Christian life
    - 1. we desire to be undisturbed from without and from within in our godliness, our worship of God
    - 2. we desire to be undisturbed from within and from without in our honesty, our righteous treatment of other people

The church lives a life of godliness and honesty

We desire this life of godliness and honesty to be a quiet and peaceable life

### III. Therefore, We Pray for Kings and All Who Are In Authority

#### A. It is their God-ordained job to keep people undisturbed

##### 1. see scriptures

a) Romans 13:1-7

b) 1 Peter 2:13-14

##### 2. their main function, as ordained by God, is to punish evil-doers; this produces two desirable effects

a) those who have proven themselves to be those who disturb peaceful people will be punished to make them not do it any more

b) those who are tempted to disturb peaceful people will be afraid of punishment, and so deterred from doing so

##### 3. interesting that we even have the crime of “disturbing the peace”

#### B. We pray they will provide that we be undisturbed in our practice of godliness

1. that the worship we see commanded by God in the bible is not prohibited

2. that elements we see as unbiblical not be required of us in worship

#### C. We pray they will provide that we be undisturbed in our practice of honesty

1. that what we know we must do is not treated as something to be punished

2. that what we know we must refrain from is not treated as something to be required of us by law

## CONCLUSION

The church lives a life of godliness and honesty

We desire this life of godliness and honesty to be a quiet and peaceable life

Therefore, we pray for kings and all who are in authority

Prelude: Trinity 122 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" - Dorita

Trinity 402 "Amazing Grace" - Dorita

Trinity 302 "Lord of the Worlds Above" - Dorita

Grace 132 "The Power of the Cross" - Anna

Trinity 270 "The Church's One Foundation" - Camille

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:2 - Thad

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:4-13 - Roel

Lord's Supper: - Jeremiah

Corporate Prayer: Jeff

JRY:

With thanksgiving for how good our political situation is compared with how bad it has been and could be, and is in other places.

What we are to desire in this life, and pray for, is to be able to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

quiet and peaceable

- nearly synonymous in the original - meaning to be quiet, tranquil because undisturbed

- but one has the connotation of being undisturbed from within

- while the other has the connotation of being undisturbed from without

- so, two observations are made, both true

  - it is desireable to be free from disturbance that comes into your land from outside its borders; it is also desireable to be free from disturbance that comes upon your land from inside its borders

  - it is desireable to be free from disturbance of your home, business, church, family, that comes from outside yourself; it is also desireable

to be free from disturbance that comes from inside yourself because  
of the threat of it

in all godliness and reverence

~~ESV: godly and dignified in every way~~ ~~RSV: godly and respectful in every  
way~~

I don't usually argue with the ESV, but here the RSV went a different way  
from everyone else, and the ESV followed. (This is a weakness of the ESV.)  
in the Greek, the two words are nouns; everyone translates them as  
nouns, except the RSV/ESV (not Moffat's fault in this case!)

Wycliffe: in al pite and chastite

Tyndale: in all godliness and honestie  
(followed by Geneva, BB, KJV)

RV, ASV: in all godliness and gravity  
then RSV turned left, followed by ESV

But others did not follow

NASB: in all godliness and dignity

NIV: in all godliness and holiness

NKJV: in all godliness and reverence

So I insist on one of the translations, whether old or new, that renders this  
passage with those words as nouns:

godliness *eusebeia*

faith, piety, religious devotion

1 Timothy 3:9 holding **the mystery of the faith** with a pure  
conscience.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is **the mystery of  
godliness**: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit,  
Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the  
world, Received up in glory.

reverence/holiness/dignity/gravity/honesty

Strong: venerable

Thayer: that which entitles a person to respect



So that used together in this way, the first denotes our beliefs and worship, while the other denotes our life of love and obedience; the one our worship, the other our walk.

John Gill suggested a way of understanding all this together. I thought a little further about it, and came up with this:

There are two aspects to the Christian life, the life of the church, the life of the household of God:

1. our faith, our worship, our beliefs, our preaching, our doctrine
2. our way of living; our walking in wisdom; our obedience to God; our loving all men according to His law

We hope not to be disturbed in these things, neither from without nor from within.

we want neither foreign invasion, nor civil strife to disturb either our practice of religion or our life of obedience

we want neither actual interference in our religion and walk, nor agitation within ourselves because of the threat of it

We desire to live quiet and peaceable lives as to godliness and holiness.

Our being able to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and gravity is largely dependent on the actions of those who have control of the government.

NOT that our being able to live in godliness and gravity is dependent on the government. BUT our being able to live undisturbed in those things is largely dependent on the government.

Proverbs 28:12 When the righteous rejoice [ESV triumph], there is great glory;  
But when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.

Proverbs 28:28 When the wicked arise, men hide themselves; But when they perish, the righteous increase.

God has ordained that it is the duty of those in government to secure our right to be undisturbed in godliness and gravity against those who would disturb us.

Romans 13:3-4 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. (4) For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

1 Peter 2:13-14 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, (14) or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

But we know that sinful kings and governors, left to themselves, will not do what God has ordained for them to do.

And we lack the power in ourselves to make them do it.

So we must pray to the Lord for it to be done.

### **quiet and peaceable**

Wycliffe-KJV, RSV, NKJV: quiet and peaceable  
RV, ASV, NASB, HCSB, CSB: tranquil and quiet  
NIV, ESV: peaceful and quiet

JRY:

note English phrase "peace and quiet"

Trapp:

quiet, from inbred tumults and commotions;  
and peaceable, from foreign invasions and incursions of the enemy.

VWS:

ἤρεμος denotes quiet arising from the absence of outward disturbance: ἡσυχίος tranquillity arising from within. Thus, ἀνὴρ ἡσυχίος is the composed, discreet, self-contained man, who keeps himself from rash doing: ἤρεμος ἀνὴρ is he who is withdrawn from outward disturbances. Hence, ἤρεμος here may imply keeping aloof from political agitation's and freedom from persecutions.

-nearly synonymous in the original - meaning to be quiet, tranquil because undisturbed

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-it is desirable to be free from disturbance that comes into your land from outside its borders; it is also desirable to be free from disturbance that comes upon your land from inside its borders

-it is desirable to be free from disturbance of your home, business, church, family, that comes from outside yourself; it is also desirable to be free from disturbance that comes from inside yourself because of the threat of it

<b>G2263 eremos eremon</b>	<b>G2272 hesuchios hesuchion</b>
Vulgate: <i>quietam</i> Wycliffe-KJV, RSV, NKJV: quiet, quiete, quiet RV, ASV, NASB, HCSB, CSB: tranquil NIV, ESV: peaceful	Vulgate: <i>tranquillam</i> Wycliffe-KJV, RSV, NKJV: peaceable, peaceable RV, ASV, NASB, NIV, ESV, HCSB, CSB: quiet
this the only use in the NT	Isaiah 66:2 (Brenton) For all these things are mine, saith the Lord: and to whom will I have respect, but to the humble and <b>meek</b> , and the man that trembles at my words?  1 Peter 3:4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and <b>quiet</b> spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

	Strong: properly “keeping one’s seat” that is, still (undisturbed, undisturbing): peaceable, quiet Thayer: quiet, tranquil
RWP: from the old adverb <i>erema</i>	
Trapp: quiet, from inbred tumults and commotions;	Trapp: and peaceable, from foreign invasions and incursions of the enemy.
Bengel: aliens being removed out of the country	Bengel: those who are aliens, if allowed to reside, at least giving us no disturbance
JFB: not troubled <i>from without</i>	JFB: not troubled <i>from within</i> (Olshausen)
Tittmann: He is <i>peaceable</i> (Greek) who makes no disturbance	Tittmann: he is <i>quiet</i> (Greek) who is himself free from disturbance

**quiet** G2263 *eremos*

Vulgate: *quietam*

Wycliffe-KJV, RSV, NKJV: quyet, quiete, quiet

RV, ASV, NASB, HCSB, CSB: tranquil

NIV, ESV: peaceful

**peaceable** G2272 *hesuchios*

Vulgate: *tranquillam*

Wycliffe-KJV, RSV, NKJV: peasable, peaceable

RV, ASV, NASB, NIV, ESV, HCSB, CSB: quiet

**godliness and honesty**

<b>G2150 eusebeia</b> from G2152 <i>eusebes</i>	<b>G4587 semnotes</b> from G4586 <i>semnos</i>
godliness	honesty, gravity, dignity, holiness, reverence
<p>1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of <b>godliness</b> [<b>G2150 eusebeia</b>]: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.</p> <p>1 Timothy 6:3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with <b>godliness</b> [<b>G2150 eusebeia</b>],</p> <p>Titus 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with <b>godliness</b> [<b>G2150 eusebeia</b>],</p>	<p>1 Timothy 3:4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all <b>reverence</b> [<b>G4587 semnotes</b>]</p> <p>Titus 2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, <b>reverence</b> [<b>G4587 semnotes</b>], incorruptibility,</p> <p>1 Timothy 3:8 Likewise deacons must be <b>reverent</b> [<b>G4586 semnos</b>], not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,</p> <p>1 Timothy 3:11 Likewise, their wives must be <b>reverent</b> [<b>G4586 semnos</b>], not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.</p>
Bengel: piety towards God	Bengel: propriety on the part of men towards one another
Wesley: inward religion; the true worship of God	Wesley: the whole duty we owe to our neighbour
Barnes: here denotes piety - or the duty which we owe to God	Barnes: refers to our duties to our fellow-men
JFB: in relation to God	JFB: propriety of behavior among men

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So that used together in this way, the first denotes our beliefs and worship, while the other denotes our life of love and obedience; the one our worship, the other our walk.

Bengel:

godliness: piety towards God

honesty: propriety on the part of men towards one another

Wesley:

Godliness - Inward religion; the true worship of God. Honesty - A comprehensive word taking in the whole duty we owe to our neighbour.

Joseph Benson:

In all godliness — In the genuine fear, love, worship, and service of God; and honesty — A comprehensive word, taking in the whole duty we owe to our neighbour.

Barnes:

In the practice of all our duties toward God, and of all the duties which we owe to people. The word godliness here denotes piety - or the duty which we owe to God; the word honesty refers to our duties to our fellow-men. The Christian asks from civil rulers such protection that; he maybe enabled quietly to perform both these classes of duties.

VWS:

Honesty: Better, gravity. Honesty, according to the modern acceptance, is an unfortunate rendering. In earlier English it signified becoming department, decency, decorum.

JFB:

As “piety” is in relation to God, “gravity” is propriety of behavior among men.

Lange:

Εὐσέβεια, a word which, with Paul, occurs only in the Pastoral Epistles, and denotes our disposition toward God; σεμνότης, an expression also peculiar to the Pastoral Epistles, refers to the outward relation of the Christian toward his fellow-men.

November

3rd - A Quiet and Peaceable Life

10th - In All Godliness and Reverence

17th - Kings and All Who Are In Authority

24th - and giving of thanks

that God will have all men saved

that God has provided a Mediator

that Christ has given Himself a ransom for all

that preachers have been appointed

1 Timothy 2:2

Vulgate: 1 Timothy 2:2 pro regibus et omnibus qui in sublimitate sunt ut quietam et tranquillam vitam agamus in omni pietate et castitate

Wycliffe: for kingis and alle that ben set in hiynesse, that we leden a quyet and a pesible lijf, in al pite and chastite.

Tyndale: for kynges and for all that are in auctorite that we maye live a quyet and a peasable life in all godlines and honestie.

Bishops': For kynges, and for all that are in auctoritie, that we maye leade a quiete and peaceable lyfe, in all godlynesse and honestie.

Geneva: For Kings, and for all that are in authoritie, that we may leade a quiet and a peaceable life, in all godlinesse and honestie.

KJV: For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

YLT: for kings, and all who are in authority, that a quiet and peaceable life we may lead in all piety and gravity,

RV/ASV: for kings and all that are in high place; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity.

RSV: for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way.

NASB: for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.



