
Sermon Notes

June 5, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

A Praying Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Evangelistic Praying

- ❖ The early church's devotion to prayer was a key means through which the Holy Spirit worked to grow the church
- ❖ Paul's letter to Timothy shows us that it hasn't taken the church very long to "get off track"
 - false philosophies, lack of holiness, hypocrisy, demonic error, apostasy and the rejection of God's Word are all present in the church at Ephesus
 - some in Ephesus were promoting a destructive message that salvation is only for an elite few
- ❖ Paul wants to be sure that Timothy counters these false claims and enlists the church in praying for all who are lost and remain apart from Jesus

Four Facets of Prayer

❖ Supplications

- "to lack"... being without something that is desperately needed
- going to someone who has the resources to supply that need
- what is the world's greatest need?
 - do we understand that need?
 - do we care about that need?
- evangelistic praying begins with a great sense of urgency based on a desperate need

❖ Prayers

- a general word for prayer that carries with it an element of worship
- we pray not only because the need is great, we pray because of the greatness of God's glory to meet the need
- evangelistic praying rises out of a great sense of other's need and a great understanding of the glory of God

❖ Intercessions

- "to fall in with a person"... to be intimately and intensely involved with someone
- God identifies with us in this deep, intense, persistent way (Romans 8:26, Hebrews 7:25)

❖ Giving Thanks

- whatever the answer is, we thank God for the privilege of reaching out to and for lost people
- we thank God that the gospel can be announced and extended and proclaimed to all

Who Do We Pray For?

❖ ALL people

- when we pray for the lost, there are no special interest groups, no racial boundaries, no exclusivity, no elite
- we are to pray for the whole of unredeemed humanity (1 Tim 2:4, 6; Acts 17:30)

❖ BUT, one group is singled out as needing special attention and focus in prayer

- *for kings and all who are in high positions*
- why do these people need special mention since they are already part of "*all people everywhere*"?
 - it is easy to cross those who are antagonistic to us off of our lists
 - leaders often seem so much larger than life and so far removed from us
- our responsibility is to pray for *all who are in high positions*

❖ What are we to pray for our leaders?

- what we are most inclined to pray for when we think of them is not their greatest need
- we are to pray for them in the same exact way as we pray for ALL LOST PEOPLE (cf. v. 4)

❖ Why are we to pray for our leaders?

- v. 2, *that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way*
 - such a quality of life in the world around us is something that will facilitate our evangelistic efforts
 - our first calling, our highest priority is to pray: to be a blessing and a benediction to everyone around us
- vv. 3-4, praying this way pleases God!

Personal Application

1. Is praying for the lost part of your regular pattern for prayer? What might help you become more consistent in praying evangelistically?
2. How often do you pray for government officials (local, state, national)? What do you most typically pray for or about them? How do those requests line up with 1 Timothy 2:1-4? Do you think praying for their salvation will make any difference? Why or why not?
3. How might praying for the lost change you?
4. The church Jesus is building commits itself to praying evangelistically. Will you please God by praying for the lost?