

I. The Command: A Call to Prayer (2:1)

- A. Pray First (2:1a)
- B. Pray All Kinds of Prayer (2:1; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6)
- C. Pray for All Kinds of People (2:1b-2)
 - 1. Especially: For Kings & All Authorities
- D. Pray to These Ends:
 - 1. Primarily, Pray for God's Sake: It Pleases God (2:3)
 - 2. Secondly, Pray for Their Sake: For Their Salvation (2:4)
 - 3. Specifically, Pray for Authorities: For Peaceful Conditions for the Church's Witness (2:2b; Jeremiah 29:7; Romans 13:1-7)

II. The Theological Foundation for Prayer (2:4-6)

- A. God's Revealed Will to Save All (2:4; Ezekiel 18:23; Titus 2:11; 2 Peter 3:9)
- B. One God of All (2:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; Romans 3:29-30; 10:12-13; Ephesians 4:4-6)
- C. One Mediator for All (2:5-6)
 - 1. The Man Christ Jesus (1:15; John 1:14; Hebrews 2:17; 9:15)
 - 2. One Ransom for All (Mark 10:45; Matthew 20:28)

III. Paul's Role and Ours

- A. God Appointed Paul Herald, Apostle, and Teacher (2:6b-7)
- B. Paul Exhorts Both Timothy and the Church

“It is the duty of the state to keep the peace, to protect its citizens from whatever would disturb it, to preserve law and order, and to punish evil and promote good, so that within such a stable society the church may be free to worship God, obey his laws and spread his gospel. Conversely, it is the duty of the church to pray for the state, so that its leaders may administer justice and pursue peace, and to add to its intercession thanksgiving, especially for the blessings of good government as a gift of God’s common grace.” —John Stott

“As a general rule, the best prayers come from the soundest theology. Whenever God is approached on the basis of his plan, his work, or his character, he will hear and answer.” —Philip Ryken

“The Christian religion is at once the broadest and the narrowest in the world. It is a faith that admits every possible kind of person. But it admits them in only one way.” —Tim Challies

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

- 1. How can you fulfill your duty to pray as laid out in this passage? Is this limited to the pastoral prayer on Sundays?
- 2. What is the connection between the call to prayer in 2:1-3 and what is taught about God in 2:4-6? How should this connection between duty and theology shape how you pray?