

1 Timothy 2:1-4 ESV

For Whom Christians Should Pray and Why!

Wednesday, November 27 at 7 PM

Thanksgiving Eve – 2013

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: In 1 Timothy chapter 1, Paul warned Timothy about false teachers who have swerved away from ⁵ “a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” In other words, for teaching to be effective, *it must be God’s uncompromised truth!*

Then, *at the beginning of chapter 2*, Paul instructed Timothy about praying. As we now focus on vv. 1-4, we will learn how AND why to improve our praying **+**in our services and **+**in our daily Christian lives. Let us also take note of the close connection between *praying* and *giving thanks!*

1. **Praying For Others So WE Benefit:** 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, [WHY?] that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. //**

a. Paul taught Timothy to pray for all people in certain ways:

i. Supplications (δεήσεις): That word describes how we speak to God when we have a need or are in misery. For

example, the angel said to Zechariah, “...your prayer [*supplication*] has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.” (Luke 1:13 ESV)

- ii. Prayers (προσευχάς): That is the standard word for *speaking to God*; such speaking is also a form of worship: We ask things of God *because we trust in Him as our LORD and Savior!* Jesus said: “...whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” (Matthew 21:22 ESV)
- iii. Intercessions (ἐντεύξεις): The word has the idea of going to God in prayer for the benefit of another person or thing. Paul wrote of intercession in this passage: “...everything created by God is good... for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer [*intercession*].” (1 Tim. 4:4-5 ESV)
- iv. Thanksgivings (εὐχαριστίας): On this eve of our National Day of Thanksgiving, how should we – *as God’s forgiven children* – think about **our giving of thanks?**
1. Jesus gave thanks to the Father at His final Passover celebration after He took the bread and after He took the cup, *so let us always give thanks to God for His gift of eternal life!*
 2. Whenever we speak to God – with *supplications, prayers, or*

intercessions – we should also include thanksgivings (Phil. 4:6-7)! No matter how difficult the situation, *there is always reason to give thanks!* Therefore, the Bible says: **“in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”** (1Th 5:18 NAS)

- b. No one should be left out of our prayers, *not even our enemies*, but kings and those in *high or powerful* positions should definitely be included. For those who are doing well, *we pray for God's continued blessing upon them*; for those who are doing evil, *we pray for God to call them to repentance*.
- c. We pray with a **purpose** “for kings and all who are in high positions,” even for all people, so that we may lead God-pleasing lives. Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “If the government makes proper use of the various functions entrusted to it by God... then the result will be that [Christians] can lead a quiet, tranquil, peaceable life, in all godliness, in the right worshiping of God, and in all honesty, in good conduct toward all men. [Then he adds:] The Christian religion, which the believers confess and profess, must find its expression in daily life.” (NT: II:375)

2. **Praying For Others So THEY Benefit:** 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. // God wants us to see how everything in our lives is interconnected; as it doesn't work to be *an arm-chair quarterback*, so it doesn't work to be *a Sunday morning believer!* Think about this development:

- a. God moves us *from sinners to saints* through Jesus!
- b. Saints follow God's Word *by praying for all people*, especially for those in high positions.
- c. God guides those in high positions *so that we can freely live and speak for Jesus!*
- d. God is pleased with such *living and speaking*.
- e. God uses such living and speaking of His Word to bring others to *the knowledge of the truth* and *His gift of eternal salvation!*

Conclusion: Since we have a direct line to God through Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5), let us faithfully offer supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for **+**our president and all high officials, **+**our state and community, **+**our congregation and family members, and **+**all who do not yet know Jesus! Finally, *since God is the Actual Giver of every good gift*, may our prayers of thanksgiving *ever-arise to Him until we are finally with Him!*

And all God's people said: **Amen!**