

Midweek Study

Notes

GOD'S
Dream Church

Through 1 Timothy

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Standing in the Gap

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Dr. Josh Franklin, Senior Pastor

1. HOW DO WE PRAY? (2:1)

BE SPECIFIC. (Supplications) - *deēsis*, the root meaning of which is “to lack,” “to be deprived,” or “to be without something.” This kind of prayer arises from the sense of need. Knowing what is lacking, we plead with God to supply it.

See James 4:2, Mark 11:24, John 15:7

BE REVERENT. (Prayers) - *Proseuchē* (prayers) is a general word for prayer, and it is used **only in reference to God**. It thus carries with it a unique element of worship and reverence.

BE CHILDLIKE. (Intercessions) - *Enteuxis* (petitions) means “informal, intimate, free-flowing conversation with God.”

QUOTE: “A friend said of the prayer life of Martin Luther: ‘I overheard him in prayer, but [my goodness] with what life and spirit did he pray! It was with so much reverence, as if he were speaking to God, yet with so much confidence as if he were speaking to his friend.’”

Quoted by Charles Spurgeon in Lectures to My Students, pg. 46.

BE GRATEFUL. (Giving of thanks) - gratitude or appreciation

1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Philippians 4:6

2. WHO DO WE PRAY FOR? (2:2a)

...for all men 2 for kings and all who are in authority,

PRAY FOR EVERYONE:

1 Samuel 12:23 (NKJV) - Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS:

COMMENTARY: Paul’s command to pray for kings was remarkable considering that **Nero, a notoriously cruel ruler, was emperor at this time (A.D. 54-68)**. When Paul wrote this letter, persecution was a growing threat to believers. Later, when Nero needed a scapegoat for the great fire that destroyed much of Rome in A.D. 64, he blamed the Roman Christians so as to take the focus off himself. Then persecution erupted throughout the Roman em-

Notes

pire. Not only were Christians denied certain privileges in society, some were even publicly butchered, burned, or fed to animals.

See Romans 13:1-5, Proverbs 21:1 and Psalms 33:12

3. WHY DO WE PRAY? (2:2b-7)

We want our world to be at PEACE. (2:2b)

that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life

QUIET - the absence of outside disturbances.

PEACEABLE - the absence of internal disturbances.

We want our lives to be PURE. (2:2b)

in all godliness and reverence [dignity].

We want God to be PLEASED. (2:3)

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

We want Jesus to be PREACHED. (2:4-7)

4. WHAT HINDERS OUR PRAYER? (2:8)

BARRIER #1 – PRIDE I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands,

When I pray, I depend on God. When I don't pray, I'm saying "God, I don't need you in my life."

You are either prideful or prayerful, but never both!

BARRIER #2 – HIDDEN SIN lifting up holy hands

Holy translates *hosios*, meaning "unpolluted," or "unstained by evil."

Psalms 66:18 - If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

Isaiah 59:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

HANDS - Ps 24:3-4 - Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

His emphasis is on "holy", not "hands." In that day and culture, people prayed with their hands and faces lifted toward heaven. It was as common as people in Western churches bowing their heads. In our culture, Paul might have said, "**bowing holy heads and closing holy eyes.**" [Charles Swindoll]

BARRIER #3 – STRIFE without wrath

"Without wrath" requires that we be on good terms with one another. "Without anger" might be a better translation. A person who is constantly having trouble with other believers, who is a troublemaker rather than a peacemaker, cannot pray and get answers from God.

BARRIER #4 – UNBELIEF and doubting

"Doubting" suggests that we must pray in faith, but the word really means "**disputing.**" When we have anger in the heart, we often have open disagreements with others. Christians should learn to disagree without being disagreeable.

Philippians 2:14 (NASB) Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

So many say, "I can't pray. I don't know how!" There are some who say, "I'll never get into the water until I learn how to swim." Dear friend, those who say that will NEVER know how to swim. You learn to pray by praying!