

**1 Timothy** 2:1-3 First of All Pray  
Series: 1 Timothy  
Reading **1 Timothy 2:1-3** June 25<sup>th</sup> 2017

Two week ago we concluded 1 Timothy, chapter 1. Timothy, Paul's son in the faith was not the individual that we might have thought would stand and excel as a leader in the church. He was weak physically, young, often sick. Yet we see Paul choosing him as the head pastor for a church that He loves and knows is struggling and will struggle more with false teachers and spiritual wolves. To help Timothy, he writes him a letter and gives him a charge. Hold to this charge Timothy and you will be successful in waging a good warfare, he tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:18. It is going to be hard, and it is going to be war in the church to stand against error, but Timothy would be able to do it with the guidance that Paul is giving him. He just has to stick to the guide that God gave Paul for the church. So what is the first thing? It is what we usually place at the end--prayer. Join us as we start chapter 2 and look at the place of prayer in the church.

- Therefore, I exhort first of all...
  - What had come before?
    - The command to charge some that they teach no other doctrine...
    - The explanation of the purpose of the commandment and law of God.
      - It was made for sinners....
      - To bring us to Christ with love, out of a pure heart, a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.
      - VS. 11 It is a glorious gospel....
        - That God came to save sinners, not the righteous. Paul was the first example...
        - The encouragement that we should be able to get from this. Who can be saved? Anyone! There is no limit with God.
    - Yet don't expect this to be easy, wage a good war!
      - Stand for truth and lead the church closer to God.
  - So what is first of all? – Vs. 1b ...that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.
    - Where does the present day church place prayer? Even in good churches it isn't near the top of the list. I don't think that I have ever read a book on church growth that even mentioned prayer as important to the growth and health of the church, let alone starts with it.
      - 2 Ch 7:12-14 “<sup>12</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. <sup>13</sup> When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, <sup>14</sup> if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
        - God hears our prayers when they are prayed with a humble repentant heart for His glory.
        - Forgiveness is offered
        - Then blessings as we are right with the Lord.
      - Isaiah 56:4-7 “<sup>4</sup> For thus says the LORD: To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, <sup>5</sup> Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off. <sup>6</sup> Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants-- Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant-- <sup>7</sup> Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

- The blessing of following God was what... They will be brought near to God and their sacrifices will be accepted, their prayers heard!
- I WILL Bring ... Them... and make them joyful in my house of Prayer!
- John 2:14-17 “<sup>14</sup> And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. <sup>15</sup> When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. <sup>16</sup> And He said to those who sold doves, Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise! <sup>17</sup> Then His disciples remembered that it was written, Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”
  - The second time is at the end of His ministry. We are more familiar with that one...
  - Matthew 21:12-16 “<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. <sup>13</sup> And He said to them, It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves. <sup>14</sup> Then *the* blind and *the* lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David! they were indignant <sup>16</sup> and said to Him, Do You hear what these are saying? And Jesus said to them, Yes. Have you never read, Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?”
    - It was a Den of Thieves now so it seems more justifiable. It was to be a house for the Lord and of prayer. He alone was to be glorified and held up, but the way to God was blocked by man... Only if you pay us, buy this, us the correct types of currency, the animals that we have approved.... Can you come to God!!!!
    - God drives them out, starts welcoming the blind and lame and healing them!
      - They were not allowed into the temple. They were defiled. They could come to the door, but not inside. (That is why in Acts 3 we find the lame man at the gate to the temple. Not even in the court yard outside....
      - Christ and God have always offered healing to the defiled. Not physical, but spiritual. We are all defiled, but we can come with prayer to ask for forgiveness...
  - Notice the first time, it was just the fact that it was merchandise that touch him. He was filled with zeal, burning passion for the Lord's house because it was used for business... It was to be a meeting place with God. Forgiveness, instruction, help for needs....
- Notice the first church...
  - Acts 1:14 “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”
  - Acts 2:1-2 “<sup>1</sup> When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly....” God starts to work... 3000 souls are added in one day... because they were obedient and waiting on God in prayers and supplications...
  - The new church is identified how? Acts 2:42 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” It was a part of their lives.
  - Acts 3:1 “Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*.” They are on their way to pray when God works again!!!
  - Acts 4:26-32 “<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ. <sup>27</sup> For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. <sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, <sup>30</sup> by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.

<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. <sup>32</sup> Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.”

- Acts 6:2-4 “<sup>2</sup> Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; <sup>4</sup> but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”
- Acts 9:11 “So the Lord *said* to him, Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.”
- Acts 10:1-4 “<sup>1</sup> There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, <sup>2</sup> a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. <sup>3</sup> About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, Cornelius! <sup>4</sup> And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, lord? So he said to him, Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.”
  - Ninth hour was the hour of prayer at the temple.
  - Acts 10:30 “So Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,”
- Acts 10:9 “The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour.”
- Acts 12:5 (KJV) “Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.” (extenos – Intense, fervent, constant, stretched out....)
- Disciples never asked Christ to teach them to preach, but to pray! Even when they asked Him to increase their faith, it was answers to prayer that they wanted. The ability to ask requests and petitions of God.
- Paul tells Timothy to start at the beginning, praying for all men, for king and all and that are in authority.... That is the start for keeping a church right with God. Praying.

I have to admit that there is no subject that touches us deeper than prayer. If you have trouble getting people to see the importance of reading their bibles, and having family devotion times, how are you going to get them to pray? It is work! It has no outward benefits. Yet the warning is that it is the clearest test of our true faith. Do you really believe that God is and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)? Then you would pray! You would long for prayer, embrace it, call for it with family and friends. It is the privilege of the church to pray, of men and women to pray. It is also one of our first callings along with hearing the word of God. Let’s close in prayer.

(2Co 13:14) <sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.