

1 Timothy 2:2-4 The Desire of God
Series: 1 Timothy
Reading **1 Timothy 2:1-4** July 2nd 2017

Last week we looked at where Paul points Timothy at the start of setting up the church--Prayer. Prayer should be first. Prayer should be for all men, especially those in authority. It is a real check on our true faith in God. Do we truly believe the God of the Bible can be seen if we pray? To have access and not use it...to profess knowledge of God and a relationship with Him and not spend time with Him shows us that we don't know God as well as we would like to profess. First of all, pray... Paul now moves into two statements that can stand alone, or in their context. They are verses that help us lay foundation stones to build on. Today we are going to look at God's desire for all of mankind. It is one of the most encouraging statements for us as we pray.

- **1 Timothy 2:1-4** “¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
 - First, this is a reason to pray, and a continuation of the opening sentence and thought.
 - We tend to use this verse to argue theology. Its first application is to empower fervent prayer.
 - Second this verse has two parts
 - 1. God's desire that all men should be saved (that salvation is equal to coming to a knowledge of the truth).
 - On any subject, we must “rightly divide the truth.” There is a balance. (**2 Timothy 2:15**)
 - This is a practical “sum of the truth” **Ps. 119:160** ESV / NAS
 - Yet it is more a seeking of the balance (i.e. there is freedom and legality). We walk in harmony with both sides.
 - Let's look at a couple of subjects that show the **balance** of God.
 - **Justice and Mercy** –
 - **Isaiah 45:21** “Tell and bring forth *your case*; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the LORD? And *there is* no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; *There is* none besides Me.”
 - **Rom 3:25-26** “²⁵ whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”
 - **Eze 18:1-30 – Eze 18:2** The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children's teeth are set on edge?
 - **Ezekiel 18:20-22** “²⁰ The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. ²¹ But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²² None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.”
 - **Ezekiel 18:29-30** “²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, The way of the Lord is not fair. O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.”

- **Wrath and Love**
 - Truth and love. Truth without love is abusive. Love without truth is hypocrisy. To have true love, it needs to walk with truth.
 - Wrath and love are similar. How can God love the persecuted, without bringing justice? We want a God of love, but we also want love only to be to us.
 - **2 Ch. 36:16-17** ¹⁶ But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till *there was* no remedy. ¹⁷ Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave *them* all into his hand.”
 - **Ezekiel 22:30-31** ³⁰ So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. ³¹ Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads, says the Lord GOD.”
 - **Isaiah 1:15-21** ¹⁵ When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, ¹⁷ Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. ¹⁸ Come now, and let us reason together, Says the LORD, Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; ²⁰ But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. ²¹ How the faithful city has become a harlot! It was full of justice; Righteousness lodged in it, But now murderers.”
- So what is the balance of this verse?
 - The other side is that God chooses men. He saves them.
 - **John 6:37** “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”
 - **John 6:39** “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”
 - **John 6:44** “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”
 - **John 6:64-68** ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father. ⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, Do you also want to go away? ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”
 - God puts it together even here in John and even in **John 6**
 - **John 1:11-13** ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”
 - **John 6:39-40** ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him

who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

- **given** – Gift, present, ownership
 - **John 10:24-31** “²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly. ²⁵ Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. ²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one. ³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.”
 - Everyone – Whosoever will may come...
 - **John 3:15-19** “¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
 - **Verse 19** helps us make sense of this given to me vs. whosoever will...
 - “¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
 - So Christ is held up, men are called to repent, but according to this verse, men love darkness and flee...
 - **Romans 3:10-12** “¹⁰ As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”
 - **(Isa 59:15-21)** “¹⁵ So truth fails, And he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw *it*, and it displeased Him That *there was* no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that *there was* no man, And wondered that *there was* no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. ¹⁷ For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak. ¹⁸ According to *their* deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay. ¹⁹ So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. ²⁰ The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob, Says the LORD. ²¹ As for Me, says the LORD, this *is* My covenant with them: My Spirit who *is* upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants, says the LORD, from this time and forevermore.”
 - **Romans 11:25-27** “²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has

come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”

- 1Timothy 2:4 “who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
 - **Ezekiel 18:23** “Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord GOD, and not that he should turn from his ways and live?”
 - It doesn’t mean everyone will come. It doesn’t mean that He purposed that everyone will come. But it does give us confidence that if anyone wants to come, it is because God is working in their heart and with or without that knowledge, there is a welcome for the one who would come.

So what do we take from this. It is both an encouragement and a warning. First, God is not without care. His love is the standard that the world is held against. Yet He has a hatred for sin. Yet even in the hatred for sin, there is a call to sinners to repent to come to Him for forgiveness. What is the warning? Don’t tune out God! When He is speaking to you, listen, open your heart to Him, ask Him to open your heart, pray and confess your sin. He is a faithful and just God in forgiving us of our sin and saving us.

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