



Faith Baptist Church of Cabot, Arkansas
Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study
October 14, 2009

Lesson Six – Prayers for All Men
1 Timothy 2:1-4

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Introduction

After charging his son in the faith, Timothy, to remain in Ephesus and deal with error in the church there, the Apostle Paul now turns his attention to issues for the church. The first matter concerns the importance of prayer (2:1-8) and will be covered in two lessons.

Exegesis

- ❖ The Call to Prayer
 - The prayers

The Apostle Paul's first encouragement for Timothy and the church is prayer. He uses four particular words to leave no doubt about what he is asking them to do.

"Supplications" means to seek, ask, or plead. "Prayers" refers in general to prayers made to God or a place set apart for prayer to God. "Intercessions" speaks of such freedom in approaching God that one can throw himself into pleadings on behalf of another. And "giving of thanks" means simply to express gratitude.

So we are to be seeking God while praying to God on behalf of others all in the context of gratitude to God.

- The prayer requests

We have no problem with Paul's instruction as it relates to those for whom we feel empathy. But Paul's request for prayer is for "all men." This includes not only our friends or those who stir our sympathies, but also for our enemies. This is what Jesus taught in Matthew 5:44-45.

Paul specifically mentions kings and anyone else in authority, those serving at the king's behest. What kind of kings existed in Paul's day? Roman emperors like Nero who deified themselves and demanded supreme loyalty and worship from the people. Nero set fire to Rome and blamed the Christians whom he was persecuting. Paul is encouraging Christians to pray for kings and their henchmen throughout history who would often want those very Christians dead. So seek God, pray to God, intervene before God and give thanks to God all on behalf of the pagan king and the executor he sends to your door.

