



Faith Baptist Church of Cabot, Arkansas
Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study
October 28, 2009

Lesson Seven – Praying Men
1 Timothy 2:5-8

For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle -- I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying -- a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire therefore that the men pray

everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

Introduction

The first matter addressed by Paul to Titus about how he and the church at Ephesus were to conduct themselves was prayer (2:1-4). Paul called them to prayer for all men, noting especially kings and others in authority. Such prayer was predicated upon two things: (1) that Christians might lead a peaceable and quiet life in all godliness and reverence and (2) that God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Prayer is still under discussion in verses 5-8 as the Apostle Paul continues to urge prayers because of God's desire that all men be saved.

Exegesis

❖ The Mediator of Prayer

➤ There is one God

There is one God of all men. The same God is Lord over all men whether they are kings or commoners. Societal status, financial position, cultural background, ethnic designation – the one God is Lord of all men. (Romans 10:12) And the one God desires all men to be saved.

➤ There is one Mediator

▪ The Mediator between God and men

There is one and only one who mediates and intervenes between God and men (mankind). The Mediator and means of mediation is determined by God, not mankind. Mankind is at enmity with God because of sin. The offender, mankind, does not determine the means of mediation with the one against whom the offense was committed. Man must come to God God's way.

▪ The Man Christ Jesus

Christ Jesus is God's chosen Mediator and Jesus' death on the cross is God's chosen means of mediation. (Hebrews 10:19-22) Paul emphasizes Jesus' connection with mankind: "the Man Christ Jesus." Jesus, God in flesh, became like us that He might die for us. His sinlessness made Him the acceptable substitute for us and our sinfulness.

Jesus “gave Himself a ransom for all.” Jesus the Mediator died on behalf of all men. God is the God of all men. God wants all men to be saved. This has been made evident in due time, the time since Jesus came and died on the cross. The Apostle Paul’s own ministry, being sent to the Gentiles, demonstrates God’s desire for all men to be saved and that Jesus died on behalf of all men. So pray for all men.

❖ The Men of Prayer

- That the men pray everywhere

In verse 8, “men” is gender specific: male rather than mankind. Male Christians are to take the lead and set the example in this matter of prayer. “Everywhere” is “every place,” specific locations. In the context it is probably referring to the gathering of churches since the Apostle is addressing the conduct of the church at Ephesus.

- Lifting up holy hands

The lifting of hands was significant of supplication, reaching out to God, hands open to receive from Him. (Psalm 141:2) As men prayed, they were to reach out to God in supplication with holy hands, hands free from sin and undefiled by wickedness. Iniquity short circuits one’s prayers. (Psalm 66:18) In some circles there is much made about the lifting of hands. But the issue is not the lifting of hands but rather the holiness of the hands lifted.

- Without wrath and doubting

In particular, holy hands means there is no wrath (no anger and agitation of the soul) and no doubting (no inward reasoning and calculation that might lead to strife). But wrath and doubting against and about whom? Maybe among themselves since the church did have internal issues. Maybe about those being prayed for since the kings were less than charitable and all men were not naturally beloved. Regardless, personal feelings were to be set aside to pursue the will of God on behalf of all men.

Application

1. Churches need men with holy hands to lead out and set the example in public worship.
2. There is no kind of person or people group for whom the death of Jesus is not sufficient. Let us therefore pray for all men.
3. Jesus is the Mediator. If you are to approach God, you must do so through His Son, the “Man Christ Jesus”.

This lesson was prepared by Brent D. Summerhill, Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Cabot, Arkansas. Permission is granted to reproduce this lesson, but please do not alter the content.
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