

THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-8)

I. THE PRIORITY AND PRACTICE OF PRAYER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH (1 Timothy 2:1-8)

A. GENERALLY- God wants PRAYER to be an integral part of the public assembly (2:1-7)

1. The IMPORTANCE of Prayer (v. 1a)

- a. This chapter begins with a shift from Paul’s instructions to Timothy _____ regarding his charge to guard and proclaim _____ (chap. 1) to instructions for the _____ as a whole regarding the importance of prayer.

- b. While the words “*first of all*” set forth the _____ in a series of subjects related to the public assembly (3:14-15), its placement also emphasizes its _____ in light of the spiritual warfare Christians are battling. (1:18)

2. The PRACTICE of Prayer (v. 1b)

- a. The phrase, “*I exhort*” emphasizes the need for believers to hear a strong, constant _____ or _____ to pray.

- b. The fact that prayer needs to actually “*be made*” shifts the importance from good intentions to the _____ of a local church.

3. The FORMS of Prayer (v. 1c)

Prayer can take on a variety of forms, such as...

- a. _____ – carries the idea of specific and intense entreaties for the needs of others or yourself. (Philip. 4:6; James 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:12)

- b. _____ – a general term for prayer to God as part of worship and adoration.

- c. _____ – carries the idea of having an audience with a king to make bold petitions with confidence for yourself and others.

- d. _____ of _____ – this reflects an attitude of gratitude by thanking a gracious giver. (Eph. 5:20; Col. 3:17; 1 Thess. 1:2-3)

4. The OBJECTS of Prayer (vv. 1d-2b)

- a. *Generally*, prayers are to be made on behalf of _____ . (Titus 3:1-2)
- b. *Specifically*, prayers are to be made on behalf of _____ leaders and _____, _____ leaders. (1 Pet. 2:13-18)

5. The PURPOSES of Prayer (vv. 2c-7)

- a. *Personally*, specific prayer is needed “that we may lead a _____ and a _____ life in all godliness towards _____ and reverence towards _____.”
- b. *Intrinsically*, prayer to God is “*good*” as it should reflect proper _____ upon and _____ of God.
- c. *Vertically*, prayer to God is “_____ *in the sight of God*” when it is not done to be praised by man or impress others.
- d. *Evangelistically*, prayer for all people is pleasing to God our Savior because He “*desires _____ men to be _____ and to come to the _____ of the truth*” of the Gospel. (2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 4:10; 1 John 2:2)

B. SPECIFICALLY – God wants MEN to lead in prayer in the public assembly (2:8)

Public prayer in the local church is...

- 1. to be led by _____ (Gk. *aner*)
- 2. to encompass the various _____ of prayer
- 3. to be offered _____
- 4. to be practiced _____
- 5. to be offered _____ regardless of the physical posture... “*lifting up holy hands.*”
- 6. to be offered “*without _____*” towards men and without _____ toward God. (Matt. 6:14-15; James 1:6-7)

* How can you personally apply this truth in your own life?