

9-18-22

Sermon- In ALL Things, Pray!

Scripture- 1 Timothy 2:1-7, CTW PS 79:1-9

Hymns- 536, 600, 461

Theme- In these times of great upheaval in the world, it might seem that God has lost touch, or even has deserted us. We must remember that God has chosen us to help Him change the world through our prayers. How this works is a mystery to us because we are limited in our understanding, but since it is a reality, we must be always prepared to give in to the process.

I. This is a Call For All Christians to "Get Praying"

A. In this passage, Paul uses words like: I urge you. I encourage you. I challenge you. I charge you. I beg you. I plead with you. I appeal to you. I'm asking you. Wow! That's a lot urging.

Sometimes it takes a lot to get people to do things.

1. One dental worker said: At the busy dental office where I work, one patient was always late. Once when I called to confirm an appointment, he said, "I'll be about 15 minutes late. That won't be a problem, will it?"

"No," I told him, not a problem! "We just won't have time to give you an anesthetic." The man arrived arrived early.

The idea of **suffering pain** was a pretty good motivation. That's always a good motivator! Most of us don't like pain!

2. Bank robber Willie Sutton, when asked why he robbed banks, replied, "Because that's where the money is."

Money is also a good motivator.

3. There was once a jockey who had an unbelievable winning record. Just before the end of any race, the jockey would lean way over and seemingly speak to the horse. A reporter asked the jockey what he did that made such a difference in the horse's speed. He replied: "I simply quote a little verse in his ear: 'Roses are red, violets are blue; Horses that lose are made into glue!'"

Mercy. Yes, I guess the thought of death would be a good motivator for most folks. However, I've known of doctors to say to some people, "If you don't stop what you're doing you're going to die." And some of those people just keep right on doing what they've been doing.

Paul starts by saying "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—"

The word "**URGE**" or exhortation is stronger than a simple suggestion.

Paul wants these instructions - carried out to the letter, more than proper actions, the acts are to be joined with the right attitudes.

So this passage is really about the people of God adopting proper attitudes, especially proper attitudes in prayer.

II. We are reminded that our PRAYERS are to be "made for all people". This includes a heavy emphasis on the LOST

Paul paints a picture that Prayer is really a stool with 4 legs:

A. Prayers of PETITION: these are prayers from the deepest part of the heart. They are also called prayers of "supplication"

These are prayers of NEEDS. We pray a lot of "I Need" prayers:

I'm sick, I'm broke, I'm exhausted, I'm overwhelmed, Lord Help ME!!! Lord Give me (money, health, peace, strength)

B. However, remember that we need to balance - our "I need" prayers with prayers for others.

The word "balance" implies a 50/50 relationship between prayer for "MY", or even "OUR" needs.

The text today is teaching us to Pray unbalanced prayers, to spend time praying for the lost, the least, and less to spent praying for Kings and politicians even.

Pray for yourself but spend more time praying for the NEEDS OF OTHERS. The Bible tells us that God already knows **our** needs but it is important that we would want to play a part in the salvation of others...that we would have a part to play in their salvation

WE pray for the Lost because it should not be OKAY WITH US THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW JESUS

C. Prayers of INTERCESSION: This is the prayer of going before God and "pleading for God's blessing on behalf of another person.

Intercede? What's that? It's like being a lawyer on someone's behalf in a court of law only in this case you plead to God for them!

And your pleading in the name of Jesus will do more good than any lawyer, in any courtroom, pleading to win his case.

WHY? BECAUSE WE HAVE A LOVING, COMPASSIONATE FATHER!

D. Prayers of THANKSGIVING: Most of us are great at ASKING God for a blessing, but do we thank God for what He has done already?

How about for His Goodness to know how to bless us and know what we need?

Here's a short list: Do we THANK GOD for giving us SALVATION that comes through his sacrifice on the CROSS?

How about Choosing to LOVE us when we were sinners and that we sin NOW even when we know better.

God gives good things to his Children when we DESERVE DEATH.

He knows each hair on our head and He still works into EVERYTHING the good of those who follow JESUS?

1 Timothy 2:1b-2 states: "**for all people**—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

"For all people" includes Kings and those in authority: the President, Congress, Senators, local governments, etc.

E. But WHY pray for these people??? Prayer can reach them and change them uniquely. All of them need God's direction in ways that connect with our lives.

God is still ruling the affairs of men. It is still God who raises up and casts down rulers of this nation and world. God does not operate on man's schedule – but ACTS in answer to the prayers prayed like Daniel of old.

Are YOU in the habit of Prayer?

Where does Prayer fit into your life?

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE THROWN INTO THE LIONS PIT:

- so that you could remain faithful in prayer

- knowing that God is with us, even when we are in a PIT

Daniel said: "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight....."

III. In 1 Timothy 2:3-4, Paul Reminds us: This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

A. God is pleased when PEOPLE PRAY. God wants all people to COME to be saved - our prayers to that END UNITE us with GOD's WILL.

SINCE God wants people to be saved, and tells us to pray for the LOST, He made a path for the LOST to be FOUND.

Through the Blood of Jesus there is a path from Sinners to God. It only makes sense that God would BLESS our efforts WHEN we PRAY!!!

Think of it this way: If anyone dies and goes to HELL, it is against God's will. God's will is that everyone go to HEAVEN, God sent Jesus to the cross, so that EVERYONE could be saved!

God takes no pleasure in the CONDEMNATION of anyone.

But we have FREEWILL to choose to accept or reject the offer

B. Continue in Verses 5-7: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. **7 And for this purpose** I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles."

Why Pray for ALL MEN? There is one God, There is one mediator, that is Jesus, The Ransom has been paid.

So the Commission to the Gentiles is a Commission to all of us. We remember that Paul was the Apostles to the Gentiles, to the Jews.

Gentiles were actually considered rejects. The common statement was "better a dog than a Gentile!"

...and Still we must understand that God pursues the LOST...He has a heart for the lost...and as a Church, WE SHOULD TOO!

Remember the Great Commission of JESUS: in Matthew 28:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, now Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

...we must be concerned with the Souls of the LOST

...we must be busy doing the work that Father calls us to

C. I URGE YOU TO PRAY...Continuously

Ephesians 6:18

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

Colossians 4:2-4 "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."

When Robert Louis Stevenson was a boy he once remarked to his mother,

"Momma, you can't be good without praying."

"How do you know, Robert?" she asked.

"Because I've tried!" he answered.

I agree: I don't think any of us can be what God wants us to be without prayer. Our relationship with God calls for prayer, much prayer.... Much time alone with Him.

D. I URGE YOU TO BE GODLY... to plan your days in RESPONSE of what God the Father has done for us through God the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

This world that we live in is more WICKED than it is GOOD.

Nevertheless, we're here and we are urged to be holy and godly.

Goodness and godliness don't come easy to us. It's easy to sin, but it's much more difficult to be holy.

It's easier to be a sinner than to be a saint. Paul said that we should pray in such a way as to develop holiness or godliness in us.

Psalm 46:10 says "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

E. SEEK SALVATION: seek salvation for the LOST...include yourself in that picture!

Amen? Let Us Pray...