

## Bible Study Outline

### Prayer:

#### Prayer Defined:

- 1) **An Expression of Worship** – through the act of prayer we recognize and acknowledge God as the ultimate source for all that exists
- 2) **A primary means of communication** - that binds us together with God in intimate and reciprocal relationship
- 3) **Special speech** – directed from people to God

#### Focus Text: 1 Tim 2:1-3

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that **petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings** be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (CSB)

**Key Point:** God in His revelation to and through men, has inspired the use of specific words deliberately, and for the lifting up and education of the reader. Paul could have simply said, “pray for kings,” but he was inspired to point out four specific elements: petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings.

#### Petitions (supplications)

From the Greek - deēsis – (day -a-sis) - **a seeking, asking**, entreating, entreaty to God

- **Petitionary prayer** fully acknowledges the primacy of God, His position as the Creator and Ruler over the entire universe, and His
- **Petition:** A passionate pleading
- **Petition:** Craves, requests, desires, (seeks) an audience with God.
  - A *formal* request to a king or judge (Like a legal motion)
  
- We do not submit our petitions alone -- **we have an Advocate!**
- **Advocate** = Greek word meaning: “one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense

**Prayer:** From the Greek, *proseuchē*, which can be the general word for prayer (worship); by implication, an oratory (public) -

- **Answer:** Clearly found in 1 Tim 3:14-15:

<sup>14</sup> I write these things to you, hoping to come to you soon. <sup>15</sup> But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.” (CSB)

Paul is most likely speaking of **public prayer (corporate)**, such as done in church, or other gatherings where there are believers present.

## Before we begin...

- Do you think that Jesus prayed specifically for you while He was here on earth? If so, is His prayer for you in the Bible, and if so, where?

### (LESSON 4)

#### Return to Our Text

#### 1 Tim 2:1-3

*<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that **petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings** be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (CSB)*

- **Question:** What are these intercessions that Paul is writing about?

**Intercessions defined:** from the Greek -- a falling in with, meeting with, a coming together, to take up the cause of another

**Key:** When we intercede on behalf of another, we are **spiritually walking along side** them, coming together with them, and **taking up their cause** in the heavenly realm.

#### Quote:

*“Intercessory prayer is the purifying bath into which the **individual and the fellowship** must enter every Day.” ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

- **Question:** Why do you think Bonhoeffer referred to intercessory prayer as a purifying bath that must be entered into daily?

## 4 Key Aspects of Intercessory Prayer

### (1) God reveals His character through intercession.

- **Question:** What do you think is revealed about God through intercessory prayer?

#### 1 John 4:16

*“And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.**”*

#### Ephesians 5:1-2

*“<sup>1</sup>Therefore, **be imitators of God**, as dearly loved children, <sup>2</sup> and **walk in love**, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, **a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.**”*

KEY:

## Key:

- We when we intercede on behalf of others, we are setting aside our own selfish interests to take up the cause of someone else.
- When we set aside our interests and replace them with care for others, it is a demonstration of the sacrificial love (Agape) that Jesus demonstrated on the cross.
- Remember, we are to take up our cross and follow Him!

### **Matthew 16:24**

<sup>24</sup> *“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him **deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me...**”*

## Quote:

*“If we truly love people, we will desire for them far more than it is within our power to give them, and this will lead us to prayer. **Intercession is a way of loving others.**” - Richard Foster*

- **Question:** What is a disciple? Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ?

## (2) Intercessory prayer demonstrates that we are followers of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus did it!

### **John 17:9**

<sup>9</sup> *“I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they are yours...”*

### **John 13:34-36**

<sup>34</sup> *“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.”* <sup>35</sup> **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”**

- **Interceding for others is an act of love** – therefore it is **an act of discipleship**, following the pattern and teaching of Jesus Christ

## (3) Intercessory prayer is a part of the calling of all Christians –

- **Question:** What was the role of the priests? They had a **sacred obligation** and so do we!

### **1 Peter 2:5**

<sup>4</sup> *“As you come to him, a living stone—rejected by people but chosen and honored by[a] God—<sup>5</sup> you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

### **1 Peter 2:9**

<sup>9</sup> *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light...”*

**Key:** as a holy priesthood **we have the honor of going before God on behalf of others** - it is a **sacred obligation, a precious privilege**

**(4) Intercessory prayer is powered by Jesus Christ –**

**Rom 8:34**

*“<sup>34</sup> Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; **he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us,...**”*

**Heb 7:27**

*“<sup>27</sup> **The ministry of intercession is made possible only because of Christ's continuing ministry of intercession...Even more: he straightens out and cleanses our feeble, misguided intercessions and makes them acceptable before a holy God.**”*

\*\*\*\* One of the reasons why we pray in the name of Jesus – His continuing ministry of intercession gives us the full assurance and backing of the great work He has already done.

One of the most powerful prayers of intercession was offered by our Savior –

**Read John 17:6-18** – Jesus interceded on behalf of the disciples

**Read John 17:19** – Jesus interceded on OUR behalf – long before we were ever formed in the womb!

**Take-Aways:**

- Intercessory prayer is taking up the cause of someone else.
- Intercessory prayer blesses he/she who is praying, because in those moments they are operating in opposition to their own sinful, selfish, nature, -- demonstrating love.
- Part of our calling is to be intercessors.
- Intercessory prayer is powered by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.