

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 2



## PAUL TEACHES PRAYER HABITS

*Scripture Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-8*

Paul wrote to pass on to Timothy what the Holy Spirit and experience had taught him of what a minister should be and of what the church should be. He urged Timothy to be always loyal to the doctrine of Christ, faithful to the call of God, and to pray much. He was to lead and teach the church as God led him. Prayer had a very important place in this. All saints should pray for all people from pure, holy hearts.

The church needed these teachings in all of its history, but, perhaps, never more than now. Present decay of moral standards, lukewarmness, and paganism in much of the religious world and the increasing encroachment by evil forces point up our need for the admonitions of Paul. As we study **1 Timothy**, we will find many subjects of vital importance to the church today.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.—James 5:16b*

### DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Judges 6:36-40** Seeking God's will.

Tue.—**2 Kings 20:1-11** Hezekiah's prayer.

Wed.—**Psalm 5** A prayer of David.

Thu.—**Daniel 9:1-22** Daniel's prayer of confession.

Fri.—**Matthew 7:7-11; John 16:23-27** God's prayer promise.

**Devotional Reading: Matthew 6:5-15 Manner of praying.**

### Pray for All Men

**1 Timothy 2:1-4 I exhort therefore**—*therefore* always refers back to something before as the reason for making the present statement. Just before, Paul had urged Timothy to hold true to the faith of Christ. Some had **made shipwreck** by putting away this faith. For one way to avoid such disaster, Paul exhorted to prayer **first of all**—most important. **Supplications**—prayers for protection from evils or removal of troubles. **Prayers**—asking for the supply of one's own needs, spiritual or material. **Intercessions**—asking for the supply of needs of others. **Giving of thanks**—thanksgiving and praise to God for all that He is and all that He does for us and for others. These cover all the phases of Christian prayer. Prayer should **be made for all men**.

**For kings, and for all that are in authority**—All of us are dependent upon government. We should ask God to guide rulers and leaders, give them wisdom, incline their hearts and minds toward Him, prosper their good acts, and guard them from wrong ones. The granting of such prayers will produce better conditions in our world. Praying for all men and for rulers is **good and acceptable in the sight of God**. Surely, saints will do it, for they want, above all, to please God as well as to gain the other benefits. God wants these prayers because He desires **all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth**. Prayers of the saints are cooperation with God. Their prayers can actually influence the quality of government.

### One Universal Remedy

**1 Timothy 2:5-6 One mediator** Who is **a ransom for all**—**ONLY** one, but enough to save EVERY person. A mediator makes peace between, and joins together. Sin separates God and man. Jesus **gave himself a ransom** on the Cross to take away the enmity, the sins, and join God and the cleansed sinner together as Father and son

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or daughter. God wills that all be saved. He makes the way for all to be saved. This is the reason for our praying for all men. Praying releases the power of God to save souls and to work all kinds of good.

Christ gave Himself a ransom **to be testified**—witnessed— **in due time**. Since the gift is for all, all must be told. (See **Acts 1:8**.) This is the basis for all Christian work. We read in **Proverbs 11:30** that he that wins souls is wise. This wisdom comes by prayer.

### Paul's Place in the Church

**1 Timothy 2:7** Paul was one witness. **Whereunto**—to the task of carrying the news of Christ's atonement to all—**I am ordained**—set apart, chosen. God chose Paul as **a preacher**—a proclaimer— **and an apostle**—one sent to new places with a message—**a teacher of the Gentiles (Acts 9:15; Acts 26:16-18)**. Paul's message was **in faith and verity**, or in Spirit and truth. It was not vague, no mere "social gospel" or moral and economic uplift. It was of Jesus Christ, the one mediator and ransom for all. Paul was sure of his calling (**I speak the truth . . . lie not**). God has a definite work for each one now (**1 Corinthians 12:18**).

Paul said, "I am ordained a preacher." This was not the formal ordination of a human committee or board passing Paul's credentials and authorizing him to preach. It was not even the approval of his brethren and the laying on of their hands. God chose Paul (**Acts 9:15**). He laid out the work he was to do. God made him **a minister and a witness**. He enabled him to open the eyes of the Gentiles and turn them to God (**Acts 26:16-18**). This was Paul's ordination. No one can serve acceptably with less.

### How to Pray

**1 Timothy 2:8 I will therefore . . .** (1) that we may live peaceably and godly, (2) that all men be saved, and (3) that all people be told of Christ's payment of ransom for them—**that men pray everywhere**. Not only in church assemblies, but at all times and all places. Who can pray? Only those who do it acceptably to God. **Lifting up holy hands**—free from sin. Iniquities separate between us and God (**Isaiah 59:1-2**). See also **Psalm 24:3-4. Without wrath**—God is love. The heart must be free from grudges, unforgiveness, or ill feeling against another. **And doubting**—God's promises are to those who believe. Doubting and unbelief cut one off from His blessings (**James 1:6-7**).

Timothy was instructed to lead the Ephesians into habits of prayer. They were to pray for the salvation of all people through Christ. They were to pray in faith and love and holy living. They were to pray at all times and places. These instructions apply to each of us.

Prayer is communication with God. The church cannot be healthy and prospering without continuing in this Christian privilege. Four phases of prayer are named. None can be left out without harm to prayer and lack to the praying ones. Bible reading aids prayer. How?

*"When the glory of the Father is the goal of every prayer, When before the throne of Heaven our High Priest presents them there; when the Spirit prompts the asking; when the pleading heart believes; then we know of each petition everyone who asks receives."*

### JUST A THOUGHT

**Some people pray for more things than they are willing to work for.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.  
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