The Church and Prayer
1 Timothy 2:1-7

I. The Urgency of Prayer 2:1a; Acts 6:4; Romans 10:1

The mission of the church is to fulfill the Great Commission of taking the gospel to all nations. But it all begins with prayer! Before we TALK TO MEN ABOUT GOD we must TALK TO **GOD** ABOUT **MEN**!

II. The Nature of Prayer 2:1b

Paul includes four different ways in which we pray to God:

1. **Supplications – prayer is the expression of a sense of need 4:10**

2. **Prayers – prayer is an expression of the desire for God's glory 2 Cor 4:15**

PROSEUCHEI = used in the Bible ONLY of praying to God and carries the idea of **reverence** and worship.

3. **Intercessions – prayer is an expression that flows from a sympathetic heart.**

4. **Thanksgivings – prayer is an expression of gratitude to God as the source of every blessing.**

III. The Subjects of Prayer 2:1c-2a

For whom are we to pray?

1. **People in general ("for all people") 2:4; Titus 2:11**

2. **People in government 2:2a**

When we pray for government leaders it is because we believe that God is ultimately **sovereign** over all the earth and He uses people in authority to carry out His plans and purposes.

IV. The Reasons for Prayer 2:2b-7

Prayer – and especially evangelistic prayer – brings many good benefits.

1. **The progress of the gospel 2:2b; 3:1-3; 1 Thess 4:11**

When we pray in this manner, it helps progress the gospel two ways:

1) We experience God's **protection** 2b

They are not our enemies to fight, but our **mission field** to win. When the world sees Christians who respect those in authority and pray for others, they won't see us as a threat to society but rather as **friends**.

2) We reflect God's **heart** 2:3-4; 1 Tim 4:10; Ez 33:11; Titus 1:1; 1 Pet 3:9

2. **The Purpose of the Gospel 2:5a; Deut 4:39; 1 Cor 8:4; Is 45:21-22; Rev 7:9-12**

3. **The Person of the gospel 2:5b-6; Acts 4:12; Gal 4:4-5**

There is ONE GOD and ONE MEDIATOR and ONE **SALVATION**.

Note that although Christ died for ALL MEN, that does not mean that ALL MEN will be saved. Though His death on the cross was **sufficient** for the salvation of all men, it is **efficient** ("effective") only to those who call upon His name for salvation.

This was all a part of God's salvation plan that was "given at the proper time." Redemption was God's plan from eternity past, but was carried out in time by Christ on the cross.

4. **The <u>Preaching</u> of the gospel 2:7**

This redemptive plan of God was the reason Paul was called by God to be a preacher and apostle.

God has ordained the means by which the gospel is carried out – the **<u>proclaimation</u>** and **<u>prayers</u>** of His people.

Study Questions:

1. Note Paul's words as he introduces this section on prayer – "First of all."
   - What are some reasons/excuses we use NOT to pray?
   - How can you as an individual and we as a church make prayer a priority?
2. List the four types of prayers that Christian offer up to God in verse 1.
   1)
   2)
   3)
   4)

   Which type of prayer do you use most often and why?

   Which type of prayer do you use least often and why?

   Why is it a good practice to balance our prayers with these four types?
3. Compare 2:1 with 2:4 and Titus 2:11. Why are we to pray for "all men?" How many in your group have a list of unsaved people that they constantly pray for? Share a testimony of someone that you prayed for a long time who came to be saved.
4. How does praying for those in authority over us affect our attitude towards government leaders (2:2)?