

I Timothy – Chapter Two

v. 1 - In order that Timothy might walk in the things and the way that Paul exhorted him to, he then exhorted Timothy to FIRST OF ALL give himself to supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks for ALL MEN;

v.2 – For kings, and for all that are in authority. This is the exhortation for all of God’s people to pray for presidents, governors, mayors, aldermen, councilmen, police, etc., whoever is in authority; because the way they govern, the decisions they make, have an impact on us and on the growth of the Kingdom of God. At that time Nero was the emperor, and his decisions could (and did) make it difficult for Christians. We pray for those in authority that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty.

v.3- Praying for all is good and acceptable to “God our Savior” (of Paul’s epistles, only used in the pastoral epistles) v.4) God wants ALL MEN TO BE SAVED, AND TO COME UNTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH (II Peter 3:9 – God not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance).

v.5-7 – There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (no saints, no angels as mediators, only Christ). who gave himself a “ransom” (We were hostage to sin and death) And because of this truth Paul says he is ordained 1) a preacher 2) an apostle, 3) a teacher of the Gentiles, in faith and verity.

v.8 – “I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands (holy, undefiled lives, unpolluted by the world) This admonition is for all in the body of Christ. Without wrath (follow peace with all men) and doubting (complete and total faith in God)

v.9-10 – In like manner also (I also would like) women to wear modest dress and simple hair. For today we should be conscious of how we dress (men too), that it not distract from our testimony, or the gospel message, especially when we are serving in the public worship. Its not about us, its about Christ. What really makes us beautiful and adorns our lives more than gold and pearls is godliness and good works.

v.11 -12 –These verses say women should learn in silence and they should not be allowed to teach, or usurp authority over the man, but be in silence. Obviously, today these verses are controversial and not in keeping with contemporary practices. But even when we consider the activity of women in the bible, and in the first century church, these admonishments stand at odds with what was actually happening. Consider Acts first and second chapter which indicate that women were in that prayer meeting with the men, were filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke with tongues, just as the men. Peter says this is what was spoken of by Joel that said “yours sons and daughters shall prophesy”. Gal 3:28, Paul himself says there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ. Consider female leadership in the bible: Deborah, Huldah, Esther /New Testament: Anna, Priscilla, Phoebe in Cenchrea, Tryphena and Tryphosia (all in Romans 16) Euodias and Syntyche (Phil 4:2,3). The Holy Spirit uses women as well as men. We all, both men and women, must be sure that when we execute what God tells us to do, that we are operating completely in order. We want God to get the glory and his will be accomplished.