

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Open up your bibles to 1 Timothy 2

We are going to continue our study through this letter that Apostle Paul addressed to his young protégé Timothy who was the Sr Pastor in Ephesus, which by the way – as I mentioned Wednesday night – was the second largest city in the world during this time – behind only Rome.

In chapter one, we saw the charge (the military command / or order) that Paul gave to Timothy – to stop the false teachers that were preaching heresies from within the church –

The reason -

The church was not growing spiritually, there was little or no edification – because these false teachers would spend their times following endless rabbit trails instead of preaching Christ – and this was causing people to leave the faith.

Here in chapter two, Paul now begins to provide Timothy (and us as well) with specific instructions about how to set in order the church services.

Remember, Timothy had lost control of what was going on in Ephesus –

That was the entire point of the letter –

so Paul is going to provide Timothy – and the church with the steps on how to fix it.

Paul reminded Timothy of his personal responsibility in chapter one – now, the church will be reminded of their own responsibility here in chapter two.

**Let's pray...**

**[1Ti 2:1-15 NKJV] 1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks be made for all men,**

I had you make a note of first of all, this is not a reference to time.

This is a reference to importance.

When a local church ceases to depend on prayer, God ceases to bless its ministry.

George Muller lived in England in the 1800's

For those who don't know who he is – one of the ministries that he was involved with was taking care of orphans.

Orphans during this time had two choices – they could work in workhouses (factories) or live in the streets.

And one of the things that God led George Muller to do was to take in the orphans.

Through his orphanage in Bristol, Mueller cared for as many as two thousand orphans at a time—more than ten thousand in his lifetime.

But get this - he never made the needs of his ministries known to anyone except to God in prayer.

He didn't go asking for money from the government.

He didn't use the children to raise money for the orphanages.

George raised each and every penny for this wonderful ministry on his knees, through unceasing, persistent, thankful prayer and an unwavering faith in God.

There were times when the orphanage had no food to give to the children – there were empty plates on the table and all of a sudden, there was a knock on the door and a baker would be at door saying that he couldn't sleep the previous night and went to his shop at 2 AM and baked bread - because something told him that the children didn't have food –

So not only did the children have bread to eat that day – they had fresh bread to eat.

Then there would be another knock, and it was a dairy farmer whose carriage broke outside the orphanage and he wanted to give his milk away so that he could be able to fix his carriage.

Remember how I keep telling you to keep a prayer journal –

George Muller did.

He had over fifty thousand specific recorded answers to prayers in his journals, thirty thousand of which he said were answered the same day or the same hour that he prayed them.

**We need to be a church that prays –**

Paul uses four separate words for prayer here in verse 1.

**Supplications** – asking for something based on personal needs.

Someone sends a prayer requests as a result of losing their job or they might be going through financial struggles, they have a supplication – they have a need. No food on the table – God can answer their prayer directly or God can move the hearts of those that read or hear the supplication and respond to it –

**Prayers** – This is a prayer that only God can meet - somebody is heartbroken, somebody is suffering from some terrible experience he or she does not understand and nobody can explain it to him. Only God can meet that need. That is the kind of request Paul is talking about. We are to bring those before the Lord and pray about them together.

**Intercessions** – refer to the requests we make on behalf of others. As we pray, there should be time when the needs of others find a place in our prayer before God's throne.

This doesn't mean that it is bad if we pray for our needs – it simply means that we also need to find time to pray for the needs of others.

Well you don't understand pastor Herb, my life is so screwed up – I don't have time to pray for the needs of others.

Turn with me to John 17 –

In John 17, Jesus is fully aware of the beating that He is about to take. He is fully aware of the physical pain that awaits Him on the cross.

And even worse, He is fully aware of God's judgment that He is going to endure on our behalf.

So in chapter 17,

He prays for Himself –

He prays for His disciples –

And He prays for each one of us.

**[Jhn 17:18-21 NKJV] 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. 20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 "that they all may be one, as You,**

**Father, [are] in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.**

**Giving of thanks** – this is a type of prayer that we give – not necessarily in response to answered prayer – but a response to who God is.

Psalm 103 is a perfect example.

**[Psa 103:19-22 NKJV] 19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. 21 Bless the LORD, all [you] His hosts, [You] ministers of His, who do His pleasure. 22 Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

A prayer of thanksgiving – no petitions.

Church – “Prayer and supplication with thanksgiving” are a part of Paul’s formula for God’s peace in our hearts.

**[Phi 4:6 NKJV] 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;**

Who are these prayers directed to???

Only the people we like? Nope

Only those are nice to us? Nope

Only those that believe the same way we do? Of course not.

All men.

Even those that persecute us.

Even those that talk bad about us behind our back.

**2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.**

For kings and all who are in authority – this doesn't mean that we only pray for those that have an R or a D next to their name.

**[Rom 13:1-2 NKJV] 1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.**

God is sovereign –

He knows who is going to be the next president.

He knows who is going to be the next senator and the next sheriff and so on.

It is so easy to complain about those that have authority over us – but God tells us instead of complaining - pray for them.

I don't think that one truly grasps Paul's words to Timothy and the church unless you know the contexts of when he says this.

You see, during this time – Nero was emperor of Rome.

And one of the things that Nero loved doing was persecuting Christians.

And there are historical records of early Christians being dipped in tar and set afire to light the roads.

He would order slabs of meat to be tied to the Christian prisoners – put them on the floor of the arena and release the lions on them.

And here Paul tells Timothy and the church to pray for Nero.

Church, when we pray for our leaders, it acknowledges that all authority is ultimately God's authority and therefore God is the ultimate king.

**3 For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

It's God's desire that all people be saved.

God loves to save people.

That's why we ought to be praying for all people.

However, this doesn't mean that all people are going to be saved.

Why?

Because God gave us free will.

He didn't make us robots.

He gave us the ability to reject the gift of salvation.

But for those that don't reject the gift of salvation.

For those that accept the gospel in faith,

His desire (His heart) is that we come to the knowledge of the truth.

The Greek word that is used here for knowledge – means a precise and correct knowledge; a fuller, clearer, more thorough knowledge.

God doesn't want people **knowing "about" Him**, He wants them to come to "know Him".

And there is a big difference between knowing about Him and knowing Him.

He wants people to have a full, intimate relationship with Him.

**5 For [there is] one God and one Mediator between God and men, [the] Man**

**Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,**

There is one Mediator between God and men.

That Mediator is not Buddha

That Mediator is not Mohammed

That Mediator is not Mary or any of the saints.

Only someone who is 100% God and 100% man could represent God to humanity and reconcile humanity to God.

Only Jesus Christ meets that prerequisite.

**[John 14:6 NKJV] 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

Anyone who believes that this is somehow unfair or somehow narrow-minded – rejects the work of Christ upon the cross

Then there is one ransom: "He gave himself for all."

Jesus gave himself that all kinds of people, from all walks of life, may come.

He did not send a committee or a group of angels to do it.

He gave himself.

No one will be turned away because Jesus ran out of love or forgiveness at the cross for them.

The cross is the site of the most important transaction in history: Jesus served as a ransom to redeem humanity from slavery to sin.

He gave His life up in exchange for ours.

He paid a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.

That church is the glory of the gospel.

**7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle--I am speaking the truth in Christ [and] not lying--a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.**

Paul is making a distinction between what he is doing and what the false teachers in Ephesus were doing.

As the false teachers were teaching endless genealogies and fables -

Paul's mission was to preach salvation only through Jesus and Christ crucified!!!

The next couple of verses are probably the most controversial in scripture –

It's the role of men and women in the church.

**8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;**

This instruction is given to men – to pray everywhere, meaning all the churches in

Ephesus, all the homes that they would have bible study in and have prayer meetings

in.

Why did Paul address it to men?

Because they weren't doing it.

Women have no problem lifting their hands.

And the men were to take the initiative as leaders in the church.

The lifting of hands was the traditional way that Jewish men prayed and worshipped.

**[Psa 134:2 NKJV] 2 Lift up your hands [in] the sanctuary, And bless the LORD.**

To lift the hands up to heaven when you pray is a humbling experience.

It is just recognition of where the answers to prayers come from.

We humble our self to God in this process, and accept the answer He has for us.

To receive answers to prayer, we must not have wrath in our life toward anyone.

We are not to pray angry prayers – “God strike down my enemy or rain down Your wrath on Portland because everyone in Portland is a hippie.”

That is not how we are to pray.

**9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.**

Here is where the controversy starts.

Why is Paul telling me what I can and cannot wear to church????

If I want to wear a braid in my hair – why can't I wear a braid?

First of all church – that is not what Paul is saying here.

There is no dress code for coming to church.

I am going to explain what's going on with this illustration.

Growing up, I think that my family was not much different than any other family here where we had our regular clothes and then we had our church clothes.

Our church clothes was our only set of good clothes – we would wear it to church and funerals.

And one of the reasons that we would wear our church clothes is to give the appearance that we were the perfect family.

Nice combed hair, ironed shirt, shirt tucked in.

Going to church was like going to a fashion show at church.

The problem with the fashion show church is that there is no such thing as the “perfect family”.

As soon as we got home – the clothes were removed and we put on our normal clothes and acted the way we would normally act.

What Paul is doing here in verse 9,10 is taking the emphasis out of the outward and placing it on the inward.

If a woman is dressed in propriety (meaning she is properly dressed) and moderation, with good works, then she is perfectly dressed to worship Him.

Good works make a woman more beautiful than good jewelry.

That's all that Paul is saying here.

When I became a Christian, I used to love to listen to Dr. J Vernon McGee – he was a pastor from Texas and I liked listening to him because not only was he very knowledgeable and easy to understand, he spoke with the Texas twang.

And I remember that he was doing a study on Timothy and one of the ladies in the congregation came up afterwards and asked him if it was ok to wear make-up in church.

And his response was, Ma'am, if the barn door needs a painting. Paint it.

**11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.**

First of all, I had you make a note of the word, in silence -

Because if you study the Greek word that is used here for silence – it is the same word that is translated peaceable in verse two of this chapter.

So the idea here is that a woman should learn peaceably or without contention instead of total silence.

What does that mean – in the early church, the men and women sat in separate areas of the church.

So when Timothy or one of the overseers said something and the wife didn't understand, she would call out on her husband to explain it for her and in the process, the teaching would be interrupted.

And Paul addresses the same thing to the Church in Corinth.

**[1Co 14:34-35 NKJV] 34 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but [they are] to be submissive, as the law also says. 35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.**

Again - This isn't about not speaking at all, but about interrupting.

**12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.**

Paul's focus here is the public worship of the church.

God has established a clear chain of authority in both the home and in the church, and in those spheres, God has ordained that men are the “head” – that is, that they have the place of authority and responsibility.

This doesn't mean that women are inferior to men or that men are more spiritual than women.

Again, this is the chain of authority that God has declared.

**13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.**

The first reason for male authority in the church is order of creation. Adam (man) was created first, and given original authority on earth.

Turn with me to Genesis 2 –

This is the first command that God gave.

**[Gen 2:16-17 NKJV] 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."**

Who did God give it to?

Adam – Eve wasn't created until verse 21.

Therefore, Adam received his command and his authority from God, and Eve received her command and authority from Adam.

The second reason is the difference in the sin of Adam and Eve, as connected to their difference in authority.

Both Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, and Eve clearly sinned first.

Yet, the Bible never blames Eve for the fall of the human race, but always blames Adam.

**[Rom 5:12 NKJV] 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--**

Adam is responsible because there was a difference of authority.

Adam had an authority Eve did not have; therefore he also had a responsibility Eve did not have.

Eve was deceived by the serpent - but Adam sinned knowing exactly what he was doing when he rebelled.

This means that though Adam's sin was worse, Eve's ability to be more readily deceived made her more dangerous in a place of authority.

**15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.**

Once again, people will incorrectly come to the incorrect conclusion here – “So Paul is saying that men can teach and women are just supposed to stay home and have babies. Typical man.

Church, if you read the last verse in the Greek

In childbearing – refers to be saved in the Childbirth,

This has the sense, “Even though women were deceived, and fell into transgression starting with Eve, women can be saved by the Messiah – whom a woman brought into the world.”

The summary is this: Don't blame women for the fall of the human race; like I said earlier, the Bible doesn't. Instead, thank women for bringing the Messiah to us.

Amen

Let's pray...

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