

## Praying For All In Authority

Let's take our Bibles and turn to the apostle Paul's first letter to a young pastor named Timothy and chapter 2, First Timothy chapter two and verse one. Christians have little to no idea how important their prayers are in the running of a nation and their being free to live out their faith.

My calling **demand**s that I preach the word, in season and out of season. When it's easy to do and when it isn't. It means that every God-called pastor is to focus his attention and that of his congregants on Jesus Christ and Him crucified and on every idea and truth he finds in the written word of God. And as you know, the written word of God covers everything the disciples of Christ will need to know in order to live in a manner worthy of their calling.

Preaching the word means that I will be diligent in rightly dividing the word of truth and then applying it to the people over whom God has placed me as pastor, those people for me are those of you who assemble here at Eastway Baptist Church.

Preaching the word means that no matter how difficult the topic might be as I come to it in the word, I am compelled by the Holy Spirit to preach it, in season and out of season. So, when I come to a passage or a verse or a book of the Bible that is clear on topics like family or adultery or homosexuality or liars or how to be born again or government, I am commanded to address it.

Being a God-called pastor means that I am not going to win the Mr. Congeniality contest in the minds of all who may hear me preach. I'm not here to please men but to preach the word. If it turns out, as it has here at Eastway, that preaching the word pleases you, then I am of all men most blessed. And I thank God everyday for the love we have for one another and the love we have for the word of God here at Eastway Baptist Church. It is a pleasure to preach the word to you, beloved of God.

Now, having said all that, lets read our text.

*1 Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,*

<sup>2</sup> *for **kings** and **all** 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 acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,*

<sup>4</sup> *who desires **all men** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

<sup>5</sup> *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and **men**, the man Christ Jesus,*

<sup>6</sup> *who gave Himself as a ransom for **all**, the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Tim. 2:1-6 NAU)*

There have been more times in world history when enemies of the church have been in power than not, and yet irregardless, Paul never took his commandment to pray for all who in authority back. He never said after writing this to Pastor Timothy that he had second thoughts on his command to pray on behalf of **all men**, <sup>2</sup> *for **kings** and **all** who are in authority,*” even when the most wicked of the Roman Caesar’s were on the throne. The word of God is universal and timeless and true no matter who sits in the White House or anyone in authority in any nation. The word of God, Christ and Him crucified, will be the same this coming Tuesday and Wednesday even if our nation experiences a regime change.

And, beloved, we have a commandment as the body of Christ to pray on behalf of all men who sit in authority over we Americans. And that begs the question, “Why?”

Why should we pray for rulers who don’t belong to the political party we belong to? Why was the church in America commanded to pray for men like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln and Richard Milhaus Nixon and Barack Hussein Obama and Donald J. Trump? It’s not because we’re supposed to like those in authority, it’s for the sake of the church. It’s for the sake of every disciple of Christ.

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<sup>2</sup> *for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.* That means that we are to bombard heaven with our prayers on behalf of all who have the rule over us. And, it means that our prayers can so affect our government that it will not restrict our freedom to worship or “*lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.*”

Beloved, according to the word of God, and in spite of what we may believe and feel, politics and religion do mix. And that means for me as your pastor that nothing takes precedence over preaching Christ and Him crucified and preaching the whole counsel of God even when it addresses the Trumps and the Bidens and the Pelosi’s in Washington, DC. And here’s the why’s and what’s of our prayers.

**First, our prayers are a Spirit-commanded priority.**

We sometimes remind our family and friends to keep “first things first.” Recently I had a conversation with someone close to me about how important it is in life to learn the lesson of not leaving one job until you have another to go to immediately or after a brief period of vacation that is coming to you from the job your leaving. That’s good advice. Twice in my life I walked off jobs with nothing waiting on me and I regretted acting so impulsively. So, first as a priority I suggested to this person, be wise.

Prayer for our elected officials is a priority for the church.

**Second, why should we bombard heaven with prayers on behalf of all men? That we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity.**

Do you see it? Can you see what can happen if we pray for those in authority, those in Washington, DC, and Raleigh, N.C.? Our prayers for our elected officials can lead to our freely living as God wants us to live. Our prayers and our government are that important. It doesn’t matter if Trump stays in office for four more years or if Joe Biden and Kamala

Harris move in on January 8, 2021. If the socialists win the majority Tuesday, life is going to take a turn for the worse, but that doesn't make null and void the power our prayers can have on behalf of the body of Christ.

My version of the Bible has the word "*tranquil*," yours may have "peace" or "peaceful." It's talking about inner peace that believers need no matter who is in the White House or the Senate or the House. The Greek word means a restful and peaceful soul, free from being unruly and disturbed. So, Tuesday night and Wednesday morning it is possible for you and me to experience rest for our souls. How? By keeping first things first and remembering that God is still in His House and we're in His house, and that's the house that counts.

The Christian's soul can be at rest and peaceful in the midst of the chaos and lawlessness we witness now every single day on the news. Keep first things first.

*"so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."*

I realized this week as I was working on this passage that the language used by the apostle isn't the kind of language you and I are used to. Whoever talks about "all godliness and dignity?" What does that even mean? That's as foreign to us today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the jargon used by people who work with computers is to us who know little to nothing about them. I know enough about my computer to be dangerous. And I have messed it up a few times, just ask Beverly, my IT person. I have loaded up so much stuff on my iPad til it doesn't work the way it's supposed to. But this is what godliness and dignity meant to Paul and it still means for us.

Paul was referring to our manner of life, what characterizes the disciples of Christ. Both words have to do with not only our every day kind of lives, but mostly our reverence toward our Creator and God and Savior. Do our lives reflect what we believe? And our prayers on behalf of our elected officials can have an impact on how we live as those who are in Christ.

**And third, that our rulers might come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.**

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**And fourth and finally, that Christ Jesus might be exalted and glorified as the Savior of all men.**

There are a thousand false christs and false saviors in our world today, including many who profess faith in their own false Jesus and a false gospel. And the word of God says that we are to leave them to their own devices and let them be anathema.

*<sup>6</sup> I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;*

*<sup>7</sup> which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*

*<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!*

*<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!*

*<sup>10</sup> For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. (Gal. 1:6-10 NAU)*

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It's as simple as that. Paul doesn't say we're to pray for these heretics but to leave them in the hands of God who is even now pouring out His wrath on them. They are by the word of God accursed.

Now back to our text: Have I already said "I will close with this?" Well, if you're not sure. I'll pretend I didn't and close with this."

<sup>5</sup> *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and **men**, the man Christ Jesus,*

<sup>6</sup> *who gave Himself as a ransom for **all**, the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Tim. 2:1-6 NAU)*

In case you didn't know this, Jesus the God-man is now "the" Man seated at the right hand of God the Father mediating between us and God. Please write this down, there is one mediator between God and man, not two or three or a thousand priests who have to go to Mary or any of the dead saints supposedly as the only ones who can go to God on our behalf. Imagine that. Dead men and women mediating between us and God. That is asinine. **1:** extremely or utterly foolish or silly **2:** of, relating to, or resembling an ass

We don't mediate for ourselves. "... *and one mediator also between God and **men**, the man Christ Jesus.*" The Roman Catholic cult and now a damnable movement called The New Apostolic Reformation are deceiving billions of people into believing another gospel and another Jesus.

What Roman Catholic priest gave himself as a ransom for all? Not a one. What modern-day false apostle gave himself as a ransom for all? Not one.

My calling as your pastor is to watch over you while preaching Christ and Him crucified and exposing the works of darkness. When it's easy to do and when it isn't. And that means I will address whatever elephant happens to be in the room.