My Responsibility to Pray for Lost Sinners

I Timothy 2:1-8

3-27-2024

Introduction: There are priorities in the Christian Life:

To Love God is a "first" – (My number 1 Love)

Matthew 22:37-38 - Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

To Seek God's Kingdom and Righteousness is a "first" – (My number 1 Pursuit)

Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

To Pray for others is a "first" – (My number 1 Job)

v.1 - **"exhort"** – to urge or strongly encourage. God does not "force" us to pray, but He does urge us to pray.

"First of all supplications, prayers . . ."

"First of all" = first in priority or importance.

"The words relate not to primacy of time but to primacy of importance" (Reinecker citing Guthrie, p. 618).

"For all men" – i.e. for all people (regardless of age; gender; race/nationality; skin color; economic status; position held etc.)

The most important practice a believer can do for another individual is to pray for them [Especially when you consider the fierce spiritual battle that encompasses us, and the many casualties resulting from lost battles - cp. I Tim. 1:18-20]

A prayer list is helpful here. To pray for specific people requires a list.

"Supplications" =Specific requests (for others) (particular needs - "Deesis" from Dei = "it is necessary")

"Prayers" =General requests (for others)
(word is only used of asking of God) (SEE Trench, Synonyms, p. 200)

"Intercessions" = To intercede or pray on behalf of others

"Giving of thanks" = To praise God for what He has done (for others)
in answer to prayer.

We are to prayer for our political leaders and anyone in a position of authority. (v.2)

An absence of prayer for those in positions of power will result in the opposite outcomes as described in v.2. Turmoil, Fighting/strife, ungodliness and crooked lying.

It pleases God when He can answer such prayer and give us a life of peace.

v.4 – God's **"will"** (thelo – desire or wish) is that everyone be saved and come to a clear understanding and acceptance of the truth of the Gospel.

v.5 – Regarding this Gospel, there is only one God and one mediator who the lost need to come to know.

v.6 – Jesus Christ gave himself on the cross as a sacrifice to purchase the spiritual freedom ("ransom") for everyone! There is no such thing as a limited atonement in terms of it's provision!

The Bible teaches that Christ died for all:

This, of course, does not mean that all are saved (universalism), but that all have the same opportunity to be saved. The payment has been made, whether or not it is accepted, imputed, or benefitted by.

1) I John 2:1-2 - "He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

2) I Timothy 2:4 - "Who will have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth"

3) I Timothy 2:6 - "Who gave Himself a ransom for all"

4) I Timothy 4:10 - "Who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe" (Christ's death is sufficient for all, but only efficient for those who believe)

5) Hebrews 2:9 - "Christ...tasted death for every man"

6) Titus 2:11 - "The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men"

7) II Peter 2:1 - "False teachers . . . even denying the Lord that bought them"

8) God offers salvation to "all" (Is. 53:6; Mt. 11:28; Rom. 3:22; 5:18; Acts 17:30; II Pet. 3:9)

9) God offers salvation to the "world" (Jn. 1:29, 3:16-17; II Cor. 5:18-20; I Jn. 4:14)

10) God offers salvation to the "whosoevers" (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 10:13; Rev. 22:17) ("Whosoever" occurs 110 times in the New Testament)

"The death of Christ is like some benefactor paying the tuition of all students in all schools everywhere. If that could be true, what should we be telling students? The good news that their tuition are paid. *Christ died for all. What should we be telling the world?" (Ryrie, p. 323)

The point in this context is that we should particularly pray for the salvation of every single human being we know! Reason, Christ died for everyone.

There is a spiritual battle that is raging about us (Eph. 6:12). We cannot see the war with our eyes, but it is every bit as real as W.W. I & II.

Satan's goal is to keep everyone spiritually blind (2 Cor. 4:4)

Through prayer, we can see God open the eyes of the blind!

In such a battle we need the weapon of prayer (Eph. 6:18).

Did you know that there is one thing that astonishes (amazes) God?

Isaiah 59:16 - *"And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessors: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him."*

Note: Even in urgent times like these, we have less praying going on than ever!

God was shocked (astonished) at Israel's prayerlessness when the need for prayer was so great (Is. 59:16).

"Call unto Me and I will answer thee and shew thee <u>great</u> and <u>mighty</u> things, which thou knowest not" (Jer. 33:3).

Prayer unites puny man to the omnipotent God.

Prayer is most essential, the most needed activity, yet often the most neglected.

The most <u>important</u> person in any church is the one who prays the most.
The most <u>influential</u> person in any church is the one who prays the most.
(Dr. Bob Jones III)

We cannot live in sin and expect specific answers to prayer (note 1 Tim. 2:8).

What was it that brought the Communist wall down in Russia? The sovereign God of Heaven was no doubt moved by the prayers of His praying Russian saints (Prayer unleashes the power of God).

Although God is sovereign and does according to His will, prayer changes things!

Mysteriously, prayer moves God to work on our behalf, to do that which we cannot do by human power and wisdom.

Hymn: Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Brethren, see poor sinners round you
Slumb'ring on the brink of woe;
Death is coming, hell is moving,
Can you bear to let them go?
See our fathers and our mothers,
And our children sinking down;
Brethren, pray and holy manna
Will be showered all around.