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## Paul's First Letter to Timothy Chapter 2 verses 1-7

In the light of this passage of scripture that was opened up for us by Pastor Tim a week ago at our Sunday morning worship service , one question immediately comes to mind. "Where does one begin in citizenship responsibilities as a Christian?"



Paul's response is straightforward: Pray! Citizenship concerns, particularly those involving the persons in leadership, are worthy of intense prayer attention. Such prayer can serve as the channels through which God provides opportunities for government officials to perceive Christians as among those who are good citizens. Thus, the result is more opportunity for Christian witness and greater influence in decision-making circles.

This key passage gives the content of public prayers in the churches of Paul's day. Paul named four kinds of prayers:

1) **REQUESTS**. These relate to what is lacking in a person's life and thus what one intensely asks for. Prayer is for specific things to meet real needs. (See [Luke 5 v 12](#) and [Luke 9 v 38](#)). Such prayer can be asked for oneself or in intercession for another. (See [Acts 8 v 24](#) and [Romans 10 v1](#))

2) **PRAYERS**. This is a general term covering all types of communication with God. The root meaning of the Greek original "proseuche" is to make confident statements about oneself.

3) **INTERCESSION**. This is an appeal or official petition for someone. It describes the Spirits' work (See [Romans 8 v 26 & 27](#)).

4) **THANKSGIVING**. This is related to joy and grace. It is an attitude expressed by showing gratitude or thanks to another. It is an essential element of prayer. (See [Ephesians 5 v 20](#), [Colossians 2 v 7](#), [Colossians 4 v 2](#) & [1 Thessalonians 5 v18](#)). As a technical term, it referred to the blessing before a meal. (See [Luke 22 v17](#) & [1 Corinthians 11 v 24](#)). The term Thanksgiving became the general name for the Lord's Supper.

## THANKSGIVING PRAYERS CONTINUED

Such prayers go outside the church to raise up political leaders before God. Authorities are important to the church, and prayers affect thrones. Paul had purpose in this injunction; that the church will be able to function peacefully, and in godliness. And holiness can flourish if God directs thrones and authorities, supported by the prayers of Christians.

Paul, in this passage underlines the unity of the Trinity. One God in three persons. Yet He uses as His mediator between himself and us, His Son Jesus. Jesus is the image of God ([See Colossians 1 v 15](#)), He is equal with God ([See Philipians 2 v6](#)). Only the wonderful mystery of the Trinity can explain this separation of the threefold responsibilities and yet identity as one God. Jesus is the only mediator between us and God, He is both human and divine, but here the human nature is emphasised to show He can identify with us.

Jesus brought peace between humanity and God by dying for us, thus paying the price to free us from sin. He opened the way for all people of every nation and race to find salvation through faith in Him.

Religion has traditionally employed holy men to act as priests who serve as mediators or go-betweens to maintain proper relationship between God and humans. Such holy priests prayed, taught, and offered sacrifices on behalf of the larger community. God taught Israel how to do this in a way which would please Him until the appropriate time came for him to send Christ. Christ offered sacrifice of himself, totally pleasing God. No other sacrifice was needed.

This made Him the perfect Mediator, speaking to God continually on our behalf. His perfect teachings are given to, and for all people, not just the initiated scribes and leaders. This means Christ has opened a new and living way for us to go to God. We do not have to pray to, confess to, or depend on the offerings of other humans.

We have the priestly rights and rites for ourselves. We have the privilege and responsibility to pray directly to Christ, to confess sins directly to Christ, to study, interpret, and follow Christ's teachings for ourselves, and to depend on Christ's sacrifice and nothing else for salvation.

No one can "do" our religion for us, no matter how much we pay them. We must deal with Christ directly and with Him alone. Human priests are no longer needed to represent God's people in his presence. Believers have direct access to Jesus Christ, who alone is the mediator between God and us.

*Transcript of the presentation given by Deacon Rodney Burge and discussed at the church home group on Tuesday 9th July 2024. All scripture references are from the ESV Translation.*