

Praying God's Truth > 1 Timothy 2:1-7

2:1-2 In spite of all the very real needs in the Ephesian church (and in spite of all the very real needs in our own world), Paul points Timothy and the Ephesians to what matters: they need to spend generous time in fervent, focused, heartfelt prayer.

This sort of praying is meant to be externally focused: it is aimed at praying about and interceding for other people rather than ourselves, and should include prayer for governmental authorities of all kinds.

2:3-7 The point of this kind of praying is not so that the Ephesians would have a better life then and there. Instead, the point is all about the Gospel: it is that the good news of Christ's sacrifice would have many opportunities to go forth to a city and a community who desperately needs to hear it.

Context: Paul's teachings are radically different than what the false teachers in the church of Ephesus have been promoting, because his teachings are all about Jesus: who He is, what He has done, and how to follow what He has taught.

Aim: Paul wants his readers to understand that prayer for other people is not something minor, it's not a "nice to have" sort of thing for when there's nothing else to pray about. Instead, it is part and parcel of how the Gospel goes forth.

Gospel: Christ Himself not only taught His disciples how to pray, but He also embodied the kind of praying that Paul is calling for here. Our King prays for His people!

Application: What needs to change so that you would set aside time and attention to make this your habit of prayer?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
