

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS
(1 Timothy 2:1-5)

I. It is prescribed (vs. 1-2).

- A. Paul is giving a command in this passage.
- B. He is commanding that Christians pray for those in power.
- C. What is the difference in the types of prayers that are mentioned by Paul?
 - 1. Supplications are requests, usually for some type of protection from God.
 - 2. Prayers are requests made from a sense of need - we need something in particular and ask God to grant that request.
 - 3. Intercessions are requests made on behalf of others - in this case the government officials.
 - 4. Giving of thanks refers to be thankful for those things God has done and prayers already answered.
- D. We are to ask these prayers on behalf of all men first of all.
 - 1. It is right to pray for people that ask us to do so because of illness, economic problems or whatever is needed.
 - 2. There is nothing at all wrong with going to God on behalf of someone who is not a Christian.
 - 3. The fact that we are commanded to pray for all men indicates God's willingness to save all men which this whole text is discussing as we will notice.
- E. We are also to do this for those in positions of political power.
 - 1. In our case it would be the president.
 - 2. He needs our prayers Paul commands us.

II. It is profitable (vs. 2).

- A. The reason we pray for all men, and especially those in power, is so that Christians can lead quiet and peaceable lives.
 - 1. Quiet carries the idea of tranquil - a calm life without uproar in it.
 - 2. Peaceable carries the idea of undisturbed.
- B. We need to pray for our leaders so we can continue with our spiritual lives with no persecution for being a Christian.
 - 1. In order to carry out the Great Commission as effectively as possible, we need the religious freedoms we have.
 - 2. We can take the gospel anywhere and at any time right now in the U.S.
 - 3. We may not always have this right but we have it now and we need to pray that this continues.
- C. All we want is to be left alone to worship God as He has commanded.
- D. Long ago, God's people were in Babylonian captivity.
 - 1. God inspired Jeremiah to write to them.
 - 2. Notice what he wrote by inspiration (Jeremiah 29:7).
 - 3. Pray for the city in which you live so you can have peace.
- E. We are to pray for the rulers over us whether they are good or bad.

1. Paul was living under the Caesars.
 2. Many of these, if not all, were very wicked.
 3. Despite that fact, they still needed their name brought before God in prayer.
 4. We may or may not like our president, but we still are commanded to pray for him.
- F. Again, the reason for this request on behalf of our leaders is so that we can lead lives of peace to be able to spread the gospel.
1. This is not just for our personal pleasure so that we don't have to deal with persecution.
 2. We want peace so that we can be evangelistic.
- III. It is pleasing (vs. 3-4).**
- A. Praying for those in authority is in agreement with God's will, which is the meaning of "acceptable."
1. We are told that it is God's will that man be saved (2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16).
 2. This can take place more efficiently when the gospel is unchecked.
- B. It ought to be the goal of all Christians to convert as many of the lost as possible.
1. We can have more access to people when lives are peaceable and tranquil.
 2. We should be able to concentrate on spreading the gospel in times like the ones for which we should be praying.
- C. Some nations and leaders enact laws that make the spread of the gospel easier to accomplish.
1. For instance, when the borders of Russia were opened, the schools would allow missionaries to come in and use the Bible to teach English.
 2. This allowed great access for missionaries.
- D. Some nations and leaders enact laws that make the spread of the gospel more difficult.
1. There are nations that will not allow missionaries to enter their countries.
 2. Others will not allow the Bible into their country.
- E. However, when we pray for leaders, it is in line with the will of God and it is pleasing to Him, because it shows that we are being evangelistically minded.
- IV. It is powerful (vs. 5).**
- A. The prayer of saints is powerful because we are the only ones on speaking terms with man's only Mediator.
1. Matthew 19:26; 1 John 5:14-15.
 2. No one else has this privilege and source of power.
- B. Prayer changes lives and it is a tremendous blessing from God that many times we fail to use.
- C. During the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, he had a dream.
1. This dream was not remembered by him.

2. Only Daniel and his friends could give the dream and its interpretation.
 3. The reason for this is because they were the only ones who knew the God who revealed secrets (Daniel 2:24-30).
- D. Today, Christians are the ones who have the connection to God who rules the universe.
- E. James 5:16

From an article by Wade Webster.