

Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Exegetical Idea:

Paul commands the church to engage in regular prayer of the sort that is in line with the gospel on behalf of all kinds of people because of the existence of the one God who has provided one mediator for all people, through whom God has provided ransom for sin and raised up messengers to ensure that the good news of the gospel will go forth to all kinds of people.

Translation:

Therefore, I exhort first of all, that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be made on behalf of all people, ² on behalf of kings and all those who are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony in the appropriate time. ⁷ Unto which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle – I am speaking the truth, I am not lying – a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. ⁸ I desire, therefore, that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath or disputing.

Exegetical Outline:

- I. Paul commands the church to observe regular prayer and instructs regarding the proper prayer requests and the manner in which they are to be prayed (2:1-3, 8).**
 - A. Paul exhorts the church to offer up prayers for others without discrimination (2:1-2a).
 - B. Paul presents the petitions which Christians should offer on behalf of others (2:2b).
 - C. Paul portrays the manner and attitude in which Christians are to pray (2:8).
 - D. Paul states that prayer is pleasing to God (2:3).
- II. Paul's request for prayer for all is grounded in the Lord's desire to see all saved a desire he has made viable through the work of the mediator Jesus Christ (2:4-6).**
 - A. God's desire for salvation involves their knowing the truth of God (2:4).
 - B. God has only appointed one way for humanity to approach him, namely, Jesus Christ (2:5).
 - C. Jesus Christ has opened the way for humanity to approach God through his redemptive work (2:6a).
- III. Paul defends his calling as an apostle and preacher while specifying the object of his ministry (2:6b-7).**
 - A. God has an appointed time for his word to be proclaimed (2:6b).
 - B. God appoints a messenger to proclaim his Word and to lead his people (2:7a).
 - C. God appoints not only the message, but the recipients (2:7a).