

1Timothy 2:1-2 ¶ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

I liked the wording of the NLT for verse 1: *"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks."*

Paul then makes special note that we should be sure to pray for those in authority over us so that they might have the wisdom to rule so as to allow us to lead our lives peaceably and honestly in honor to the Lord.

Supplication speaks of specific prayer requests. *Prayers* included supplication with the thought of earnestness and worshipping God in the process. *Intercession* seems to be focusing on bringing one into reconciliation with God, such as praying for unsaved loved ones to have their hearts humbled and turn to God in faith and repentance. Giving thanks would involve thanksgiving for answered prayer, for blessings, and for showing gratitude for the ones that God has placed in our lives as vessels of His love as well as the opportunities He gives us to be those vessels of His love in the lives of others.

I think the body of believers in America today should be storming the heavens with earnest prayer regarding our leaders. It seems as though we are well on our way to soon finding ourselves in the position of facing persecution for public declaration of the truth of God's word.

1Timothy 2:3-4 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Paul is basically saying that it pleases God for us to care about the spiritual destiny of our fellowman as He does. Paul states unequivocally that God desires ALL men to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth. God's will in this instance is a reflection of His heart's desire for intimate fellowship with each individual. Though He is sovereign, He didn't create us as robots. He created us in His image and gave us the privilege of choice as to whether or not we would accept Him as the authority in and love of our life. True love in relationship is a matter of choice.

This is another one of those verses that I just don't understand how people can ignore and try to say that God has created some men to salvation and others to damnation. There are so many verses that reiterate the truth that man has the ability to choose whom he will serve.

Ezekiel 18:23 "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?"

Ezekiel 18:32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Acts 2:21 "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 5:18 "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

1Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Much to the dismay of and in spite of the claim of so many today, there is only one true God and only one person who can reconcile us in relationship to God—the man Christ Jesus.

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The phrase "one God" connects with the praise that Paul offered in verse 17 of chapter one in reference to "the only wise God." There is only one rational, thinking, creative sovereign Almighty Being in the universe. He has identified Himself as YHWH, or I AM THAT I AM, the self-existent eternal God.

Exodus 3:13-14 "And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM...."

I love the places in Isaiah where God declares Himself as the one and only. Either you accept God's word as truth or not; there is no room for compromise.

Isaiah 43:10 & 13 "Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.....Yea, before the day was I am he...."

Isaiah 44:6 "Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."

Isaiah 45:11-12 "Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded."

Isaiah 45:22 "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

Isaiah 46:8-10 "Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came willingly to pay the ransom necessary to redeem us back to God. It is also important to recognize that Jesus became human; He was God in flesh. Only a perfect human could qualify as the sacrifice demanded by our sin; only God in flesh could live so as to qualify as that sacrifice.

John 1:1 & 14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 10:14-15 & 18 "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep....No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

Philippians 2:5-8 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

The Greek for *no reputation* emphasizes the truth that He *emptied* Himself; He lived in the flesh as a man; He lived in dependence upon the Spirit—just as we are supposed to. He didn't cease being God; He just **chose** to live with the limitations of a man, albeit a sinless man indwelt by the Spirit—just as Adam was created and intended to live.

I think the CJB gave the best understanding of the last phrase of verse 6: "...thus providing testimony to God's purpose at just the right time." God's plan was in place before the foundation of the world. He determined the exact time that His

Son would come to provide redemption for mankind in accordance with that plan, a plan that was foretold throughout scripture.

Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Isaiah 53:4-6 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Daniel 9:25-26 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:"

Isaiah 9:6-7 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Luke 1:30-33 "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

1Timothy 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

"Whereunto" = In reference to the truth of the previous verses

Paul was proud to have been chosen by God to spread the gospel message to the Gentiles. He evidently faced accusation that he had declared himself an apostle, but he emphasized that his commission was from the Lord. The message he declared was trustworthy and truthful. He also emphasized this truth in his letter to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 3:2-3 & 8 "If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery....Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...."

1Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

As we continue to read to the end of the chapter, it seems to be making application to appropriate conduct in the joint body of believers. Paul first addresses the attitude of the heart that should accompany prayer. One should be able to pray and worship with hands that can be lifted as “holy” hands, hands that represent the person as living a life of purity and free of defilement before the Lord. I think this is saying that we should prepare our hearts to join in the prayer and worship of the assembly of believers. We should ensure that our sins are confessed and our hearts are clean.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

When I first started attending Calvary Chapel, the lifting of hands in worship was foreign to me. I have learned it to be a natural response of praise and worship before the Father. The precedent was established in the Old Testament scriptures. Solomon prayed with lifted in hands as he dedicated the temple and the King David referenced it as a natural attitude of prayer and worship.

1 Kings 8:22 “And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven....”

Psalms 141:2 “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

In looking at the Greek, the word for “men” is specific to the male gender. This fits in with the order of authority established by God. It is in no way a statement regarding the inferiority of women. It just gives public evidence of submission to the will of God. Paul was very clear in this instruction in his letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 “Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.”

Note that the women are to be under obedience. This allows for their service in the church as authorized by the leadership. This principle is emphasized in verse 12; the woman is not to “usurp authority over the man.” Paul assumed the participation of women in the assembly in his letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 11:4-5 “Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.”

This is a hard truth to swallow for many in the “church” today in our culture of the liberated woman. Women pastors are becoming the norm, and I frankly believe that is not according to God’s will. Scripture is clear that God has used women in leadership positions and in the prophetic ministry—e.g., Miriam

(Exodus 15), Deborah (Judges 4), Huldah (2Kings 22), Isaiah's wife (Isaiah 8), and Anna (Luke 2).

Scripture is also clear that women can serve as teachers.

Acts 18:24-26 "And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."

The key seems to be that their teaching in the public assembly of the church is to be to the women and children.

Titus 2:3-5 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

1Timothy 2:9-10 ¶ In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

"In like manner" = Continuing in context, I believe the specific application is regarding the public assembly of the body of believers.

Women should dress in a way appropriate to worship; their goal should not be to call attention to themselves. They should be more concerned with having a reputation for their "good works" before the Lord than in their appearance. The admonition seems to be against the showy and extravagant; it doesn't mean we shouldn't want to look as nice as possible. Either extreme of appearance is a distraction in the joint assembly. Our appearance should be one of modesty.

1Timothy 2:11-12 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Again, I think it is important to note that in context this instruction applies to the public assembly of believers. I have never felt muzzled in the church. Leadership has always provided open doors for ministry under the authority of the pastor. I have been involved in public church ministry since my teen years. I have sung in the choir, worked in the nursery, taught Sunday School, Training Union (I am dating myself with the terminology.), junior choir, ladies classes, small groups of new believers and volunteered in church office work. I have never felt the need to contribute beyond where there was obvious need and/or as requested.

I like my position as a woman under the protection and authority of my husband. The Lord has opened many opportunities for me through his provision and leadership. My website is a direct result of his prompting and encouragement.

The instruction to “be in silence” is connected to doing things decently and in order. I think the better choice from the Greek would have been peaceable or avoiding bustle or distracting activity.

1Corinthians 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

Paul publicly acknowledged and gave thanks to women who had assisted him in ministry.

Romans 16:1-2 “I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.”

Philippians 4:3 “And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.”

1Timothy 2:13-15 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

These verses reference the reasons the woman was to submit to man.

1. Adam was created first.
2. Eve proved to be susceptible to the deceit of the enemy. Adam’s sin was a deliberate choice; Eve was basically tricked into sinning. I think this goes to the difference in the emotional makeup between male and female.

I have often wondered why Adam didn’t warn Eve and chose to disobey God since this verse is clear in stating that he was not deceived. Scripture indicates that he wanted to please his wife more than God; but when God confronted him with his sin, he was sure quick to lay the blame on her.

Genesis 3:11-12 & 17 “And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat....And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying....”

I liked David Guzik’s comment on these verses: “Why does man get the blame for the fall, when Eve ate the forbidden fruit first? Because there was a difference

of authority. Because Adam had an authority Eve did not have, he also had a *responsibility* Eve did not have. Adam failed in his responsibility in a far more significant way than Eve did."

As a result of her disobedience to God, Eve, and through her all women, was cursed to submit to the authority of her husband and would experience great sorrow in childbirth.

Genesis 3:16 "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

I needed help on verse 15 and after reading many commentaries, I thought that Ray Stedman's understanding made the best sense: "Here the word *saved* means "fulfilled," "to find significance." When used in that same sense, in this word about women, it makes perfect sense. Paul is saying to women, "The role God has given you is not to be the final, authoritative teachers in a church" (that is clear), "but that does not mean you cannot find great significance as Christian women. Your significance, your sense of fulfillment, will come as you bear children and they continue in faith and love and holiness, with modesty. The interesting thing is, that is exactly what the Greek text says: It says, "they," not "she." It is the editors who have put in the word, "she." Everywhere, in every version, the Greek text says, "they." It refers to the children. It is simply recognizing that a mother's unique contribution to life is to pour herself and all her values into her children, in order that as they come to manhood and womanhood they touch life and change it because of their mother's helpful influence."