

Praying With Understanding 1 Timothy 2

Introduction:

1. God places a high premium on the concept of “understanding.” God says that we are children of the light if we are saved and know Jesus Christ as our Savior.
2. Therefore, God does not desire that His children walk around in the dark, blinded by Satan’s world system and deceptions.
3. As we walk through this world, Jesus said to be “*wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*” God said to walk in wisdom. We are to be people of great understanding. Let’s examine a few verses about this.
 - Paul’s prayer for the saints: Ephesians 1:18, 5:17; Colossians 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:7
 - This concept of understanding is crucial in our prayer lives too.
1 Corinthians 14:15, 20
4. We studied prayer from this chapter for the last several weeks. We examined who we should pray for, why we should pray, and how to pray. But it is so important that we pray with understanding.
5. The only way to do this is to know exactly where we (as the church, the body of Christ) fit in the plan of God, and have a good understanding of what God is doing today.
6. Prayer is something that is cross-dispensational. This simply means that prayer is found in every time period in the Bible. People were praying and seeking the Lord in Genesis 4, before there was even any written Word of God.
7. But prayer does change from one time period to the next. Why is this? It’s because God’s dealings with man and God’s expectations and commands change from one time period to the next.
 - **Example:** Abel brought a blood sacrifice to God when he prayed. Do we do this? Do we pray this way? The nation of Israel had a high priest that represented them before God for many things. Do we need a man to represent us before God today? Do you have to pray through me?
 - When David prayed, he prayed that God would knock out the teeth of Israel’s enemies. Do we pray that way today?
8. As you can see, it is crucial that we pray with understanding. This text is very helpful. How can we pray with understanding?

First, know our God’s mission.

1. What is God’s heartbeat today? What is God’s mission? What is God trying to accomplish today in this time period? Look at 1 Timothy 2:4. Do you see God’s heartbeat? cf. 1:15
2. God is on a mission to save lost souls from Satan’s kingdom of darkness. He is offering grace and a place in His family to every person on this earth. Colossians 1:12-13
3. Today, God is forming a brand-new organism called the church, the body of Christ.
4. In time past, God dealt with the world through His chosen nation, Israel. Israel would be the channel through which God would bring His kingdom to this earth.

- This is why when Jesus Christ appeared on this earth during His public ministry, He was born a Jew, ministered only within the confines of Israel, and called Israel to repentance.
 - That was the mission at that time. But Israel rejected Christ as their Messiah. Therefore the kingdom on this earth was postponed, and God did something unprophesied.
5. God saved Saul of Tarsus (the apostle Paul) and revealed to him that He would offer a grace period to the entire world. God would form a **new** organism, distinct and separate from Israel, called the church, the body of Christ.
 6. The church would be the channel through which the heavens would be reconciled back to God. Today, God's mission is to send the good news of His grace to every person in this world and invite them to be a part of this heavenly church!
 7. When you pray for a lost soul today, you are praying right in the middle of God's will, because that is exactly what God's heartbeat and passion is today.

Second, know our Savior's work.

1. God has provided a way for His mission to be accomplished. Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross for every man and woman. This was revealed to Paul.
2. Any person can be saved, forgiven, and given an exalted, heavenly position in the church, the body of Christ. Look at verses 5 and 6.
 - The ground is level at Calvary! There is no people group today with preferential treatment. The gospel is offered to the entire world on an absolutely equal basis.
 - You don't have to have a certain skin color, be intelligent, sophisticated, handsome, beautiful, or wealthy. God welcomes everybody into His family.
3. But there is only one way to get into God's family. It is not multiple choice. The only way is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. You must trust in Him and what He did on the cross for you. If you trust in yourself, in another person, in your church, or in religion, you will not make it.
4. It cannot get any simpler than Acts 16:30-31. You must turn from any preconceived ideas, religious thoughts, or man-centered philosophy, and turn in faith to Jesus Christ! You must believe that what He accomplished is enough and will save you.
5. When you pray for those you know are lost, you aren't praying that they will find religion, church, or morality. You are praying that they will come to know Jesus Christ!

Third, know our spokesman for today.

1. In every time period, God has a chief spokesman that explains what God is doing in that time period and what God's expectations of man are.
2. Where would a Gentile who has been saved by grace and placed in the body of Christ look to find our instructions for today? Notice verse 7. cf. Romans 11:13; Philippians 4:9; Colossians 1:25; Ephesians 3:1-4; 1 Corinthians 4:15-17
3. If you are going to pray with understanding, you must know your spokesman. It is not Moses, Noah, Daniel, or Peter. Jesus Christ appeared to Paul from heaven and gave him numerous heavenly revelations, so that saved Gentiles in the body of Christ could have instruction today.

4. You don't pray like an Old Testament Jew, a Kingdom saint, or a tribulation saint. You pray as a member of the body of Christ. How does a saint in the body of Christ pray?
5. Do a study of Paul's prayers sometime in your personal study. You will find it very enlightening. He prayed mature prayers that are in accordance with what God is doing today.

In Conclusion:

1. Prayer – getting to talk and communicate with the God of this universe – is such an incredible privilege. But it must be done with understanding, so that it will be fruitful and effective!
2. When you pray, know God's mission, know your Savior's work, and know your spokesman!