



# The First Duty of the Church—Pray

1 Timothy 2:1-8

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*Continued from last edition...*

**III. Jesus Christ, Mediator— Prayer— Salvation— Ransom— Redemption: pray for all men to be saved, both rulers and citizens, both high and low. (1 Timothy 2:3-7)**

**There are five reasons given why we are to pray** for the salvation of all men, including all rulers.

A. First, God is our Savior and He wills all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. As pointed out earlier (**1 Tim. 1:1**), *God our Savior* is one of the great titles for God. God is our Savior, the source of our salvation. God is the first Person who has cared for and loved man. God loves us and He is not willing that any should perish; therefore, He has taken the initiative and provided the way for us to be saved.

**Note:** God wills all men to be saved, but not in the sense of a decree. God has not decreed that all men be saved. This is evident by the ungodly and unrighteous lives lived by so many. God wills all men to be saved in the sense that He loves and longs for them to be saved. If any man perishes, it is his own fault. God has done all He can. He has provided the way for man to be saved. If a man is now lost, it is his own choosing.

**Note the words "the knowledge of the truth."** What truth is it that God wants man

to know? The truth that is covered in the points that follow: that there is only one God, and there is only one Mediator who gave Himself a ransom for all—the truth that all can be saved from sin and death and judgment to come through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. God loves man so much that He has provided *the way* for man to be saved. *That way* is the truth, and *that truth* is the truth that God wants man to know.

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

This is the reason we should pray for all men, both rulers and citizens, high and low, educated and uneducated, moral and immoral, just and unjust, civilized and savage, saved and lost. God wants all men to be saved regardless of who they are and no matter how evil they may be.

**"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" (2 Peter 3:9).**

**"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of**

Israel?" ([Ezekiel 33:11](#)).

B. Second, there is only one God, not the many gods of men. If there were many gods, then there would be many ways to reach the heavens of the gods. But there are not many gods. Logically, there could not be many gods. When we speak of God, we mean the Infinite and Supreme Majesty of the Universe. There can be only one Supreme Being, only one Infinite Being. If there should be many gods, then they would not be infinite or supreme; therefore, they would not be God.

**The point is this:** since there is only one God, there can be only one way to reach Him—only one way to be saved. Why? This is the discussion of the next point.

**"There is none other God but one" ([1 Cor. 8:4](#)).**

**"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" ([Ephes. 4:6](#)).**

**"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" ([1 John 5:7](#)).**

**"Wherefore thou are great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God besides thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears" ([2 Samuel 7:22](#)).**

**"For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone" ([Psalm 86:10](#)).**

**"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. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior" ([Isaiah 43:10-11](#)).**

**"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 44:6](#)).**

**"For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD and there is none else" ([Isaiah 45:18](#)).**

C. There is only one mediator between God and men. Man must have a mediator if he is to be saved, if he is to approach God and be acceptable to God. As asked above, why? Because there is only one perfect Person: God Himself. No man can stand before God, not in his own name or righteousness. Man is imperfect, and God is perfect. Man cannot make himself acceptable to God no matter what he does.

***Imperfection is unacceptable to perfection.*** If perfection accepted imperfection, it would no longer be perfection. Perfection has to be just and righteous, which means that it has to reject imperfection. God cannot accept imperfect man. God has to be just and righteous and reject man in all the imperfection of his thoughts and behavior.

How, then, can man become acceptable to God? God has to make man acceptable. God Himself has to handle the sin, condemnation, and death of men. But how? There was only one way: God, the Perfect

Person, had to become Man. God had to come to earth in such a way that man could understand Him and understand what He was doing. This He did by partaking of flesh and blood and coming to earth in the person of His Son, the Man Christ Jesus.

God Himself had to conquer sin. He had to live a *perfect and sinless life* as a man in order to handle sin. By living a perfect and sinless life, He became the Ideal and Perfect Man, the Ideal and Perfect Righteousness that could cover and stand for all men ([Hebrews 2:14-15](#)).

**"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; <sup>15</sup> And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" ([Hebrews 2:14-15](#)).**

This is part of what is meant by Jesus Christ being our Mediator. He stands before God as the Perfect Man, and He also stands between God and men as the Perfect Man. He is the Ideal Pattern of all men, of just what a man should be.

**Therefore, when a man really believes in Jesus Christ.....**

- God takes that man's belief and counts it as the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- God accepts the man's faith and honor in His Son as righteousness.
- God lets the righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ, cover the man.
- God accepts the man's faith as the righteousness of Jesus

Christ.

Very simply stated, the man is not righteous, but God takes the man's faith in His Son and credits his faith as righteousness. Jesus Christ stands as the Mediator between God and men; He stands as the Mediator of perfection and righteousness for man. The point is this: since there is only one Mediator, we must pray for men to come to know Him. And we must rush to proclaim Him to all men so that they can know about Him and have the opportunity to follow Him.

**"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 1:14).**

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

**"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake" (John 14:9-11).**

**"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).**

**"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises" (Hebrews 8:6).**

**"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Hebrews 9:15).**

**"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Hebrews 9:24).**

**"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven" (Hebrews 12:24-25).**

**"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1).**

**D.** The man Christ Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all. The word "ransom" (*antilutron*) means to exchange something for something else. The man Christ Jesus exchanged His life for the life of man; He gave up His life for the life

of man. How? By the cross. Jesus Christ took the sin and condemnation of men upon Himself and bore their judgment for them. Christ died for man; He bore the judgment of God against sin for man.

As the Ideal and Perfect Man, Christ could do this for man. Since He was the Ideal Man, His death was the ideal death. Therefore, His death can stand for and cover the death of all men.

**If a man really believes and trusts that the death of Jesus Christ is for him.....**

- God counts the death of Christ for the man.
- God actually *counts* the man as having already died in Christ.
- God accepts the man as free from the guilt and condemnation of sin because

Christ has already paid the ransom price for sin and death.

This is the glorious gospel of God: man can now live forever in the presence of God. Jesus Christ gave Himself as a ransom for sin and death.

*Continued in next edition...*



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