



# The First Duty of the Church—Pray

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

*Continued from last edition...*

**When man receives Christ Jesus into his heart and begins to follow Christ.....**

God gives him life now and forever, abundant life and eternal life. When the man finishes his task upon earth, God will transfer him right into His presence—quicker than a flash of lightning. The man never has to taste death.

The words "**testified in due time**" mean that God sent His Son in the fullness of time. When it was time for Christ to come to earth, He came.

**Now note:** we must pray for men to believe that Christ died for them—pray that they might be saved. And we must rush to proclaim the glorious news that Christ Jesus has paid the ransom price for us: we can now be set free from sin, death, and condemnation. We can now live with God eternally.

**"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul" (Leviticus 17:11).**

**"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).**

**"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).**

**"For ye are bought [redeemed] with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20).**

**"Ye are bought [redeemed] with a price; be not ye the servants of men" (1 Cor. 7:23).**

**"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephes. 1:7).**

**"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:14).**

**"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" (1 Tim. 2:5-6).**

**"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).**

**"Forasmuch as ye know that ye**

were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" ([1 Peter 1:18-19](#)).

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" ([Rev. 5:9](#)).

E. Ministers are ordained or appointed to proclaim the salvation of God.

**Note: Paul said three things about himself.**

1. God had appointed Paul to be a “preacher” (*kēruux*): a herald, an ambassador who was appointed by a king to go forth and proclaim the message of the king.

**The minister is a preacher who is sent forth by God to preach the truth about Jesus Christ.....**

- that He is the Mediator between God and men.
- that He has given Himself as a ransom for all.

"And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach" ([Mark 3:14](#)).

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" ([Mark 16:15](#)).

"Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life" ([Acts 5:20](#)).

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" ([2 Tim. 4:2](#)).

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect" ([1 Cor. 1:17](#)).

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" ([1 Cor. 9:16](#)).

2. God had appointed Paul to be an “apostle” (*apostolos*): a person who had been sent as a very special witness and on a very special mission. The minister is sent forth on the special mission to bear witness that Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and men. Jesus Christ has paid the ransom price for man.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" ([John 15:16](#)).

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be

made the righteousness of God in him" ([2 Cor. 5:20-21](#)).

3. God had appointed Paul as a “teacher” (*didaskalos*): a person who instructs people reproof, correction, and righteousness.

Note Paul's stress upon his call from God: "I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not." God had called him to proclaim and teach the salvation in Christ Jesus. Apparently, there were some at Ephesus who questioned Paul's call and ministry.

**The point is this:** God has called ministers to proclaim the faith and truth of the Mediator and the great ransom price that He paid for man's salvation. Therefore, we must pray for *all men*—that they will receive the message of the minister and be saved.

"Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them" ([Acts 18:9-11](#)).

"And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding" ([Acts 28:30-31](#)).

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles,

then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" ([1 Cor. 12:28](#)).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" ([Ephes. 4:11](#)).

#### IV. Prayer: pray everywhere and pray in the right spirit. ([1 Timothy 2:8](#))

A person should never stop praying. He should be praying all day long as he walks throughout the day. He should develop an unbroken communion and fellowship with the Lord, praying for all men—for both the ruler and the citizen, the high and the low, the lost and the saved—all over the world.

#### He should pray for those of his....

- ◆ home    ◆ church
- ◆ city    ◆ community
- ◆ state    ◆ country

#### He should pray for those in.....

North America  
Central America  
South America  
Africa  
Russia  
India  
Pakistan  
Europe  
Romania  
The Middle East ...and on and on.

The believer is to pray and to keep on praying. He is to pray everywhere—no matter where he is.

**But note: the believer is also told how to pray.**

A. He is to pray "lifting up holy hands"; that is, he is not to come before God having touched or handled "the forbidden things" (William Barclay. *The Letters to*

*Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, p.74). He is not to come with sin in his life.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" ([Psalm 66:18](#)).

"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" ([Isaiah 59:2](#)).

"And there is none that calleth upon thy name that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities" ([Isaiah 64:7](#)).

B. He is to pray without anger or feelings in his heart against someone else.

#### Very simply.....

- God does not accept us unless we accept others.
- God does not forgive us unless we forgive others.

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" ([Matthew 5:23-24](#)).

"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" ([Matthew 6:15](#)).

"So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses" ([Matthew 18:35](#)).

C. He is to pray without doubting.

There is no need to pray if we do not think God is going to hear us. If we ask Him doubting, we are not trusting His presence and power to meet our need. We are actually denying God's care and power. We are destroying the name of God among men. Therefore, we must believe God when we pray.

"And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?" ([Matthew 21:23](#)).

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" ([Mark 11:24](#)).

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord" ([James 1:6-7](#)).





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