

## The Parish of Wellow

### 1 Timothy 2:1-8 – ‘Paul: Prayer for all people’ Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

#### 1. Talk Passage – 1 Timothy 2:1-8

1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.3 This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a 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 men-- the testimony given in its proper time.7 And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle-- I am telling the truth, I am not lying-- and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. 8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

#### 2. Talk Notes

##### 1. Introduction

- When did we last make a list of people we wanted to pray for? What names would be on our list?
- Timothy was one of Paul's closest companions – Paul had sent Timothy to the church at Ephesus to counter the false teaching that had arisen there.
- Timothy was a young church leader learning the ropes, no doubt by trial and error – Paul writes this letter to give Timothy instruction on how to run and lead a newly growing church effectively.
- In the opening eight verses of Chapter 2 Paul urges Timothy to expand his prayer life and reminds him that:
  - a) The church's prayers should concern all people. (2:1-2)
  - b) God's desire concerns all people (2:3-4)
  - c) Christ's death concerns all people (2:5-6)
  - d) The church's proclamation must concern all people (2:7)

##### 2. The church's prayers should concern all people. (2:1-2)

- Paul tells Timothy that if churches wish to grow and develop they will need to have a global rather than a parochial focus.
- Paul urges the church in Ephesus to pray 'for kings and all those in authority.' He does so for two reasons:
  - a) *That we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*
  - b) That good government fosters the spread of the gospel
- Paul's expects Timothy, the church in Ephesus and us to pray for all states and governments even those who are *not* Christian. Paul's teaching here would imply that it is the duty of the state to keep the peace, to protect its citizens from whatever would disturb it, to preserve law and order and to punish evil and promote good so that within such a stable society the church may be free to worship God, obey his laws and spread the gospel.

Conversely it is the duty of the church to pray for the state, so that its leaders may administer justice and pursue peace.

- Many of us living in the Western world take our stable governments and societies for granted – many of us have no experience what it is like to live in a society racked by war or civil disturbance. Let us be encouraged to pray and thank God for our own government and pray for those war torn areas of the world that they too may experience the peace and stability that we take for granted.
3. God's desire concerns all people (2:3-4)
    - Paul points out to Timothy and the church in Ephesus that God has a global desire for all people to know him and be saved: '*God our Saviour who wants all men to be saved*'
    - Does this mean that *all men will* be saved? There is a clear distinction between *want* and *will*. God wants all to be saved but many will reject his offer which will mean that all men will *not* be saved.
    - Our responsibility however is to preach the gospel and to pray people's conversion.
  4. Christ's death concerns all people (2:5-6)
    - '*For there is **one** God and **one** mediator between God and men*'
    - Paul explodes here the popular held believe that there are *many* ways to bridge the gap between 'Man and God'.
    - Paul claims only one person can bridge this gap and this is Jesus because of what he has done on the cross.
  5. The church's proclamation must concern all people (2:7)
    - '*to the Gentiles*' - Paul, despite his Jewish heritage and upbringing reconfirms that God's salvation is for *all* – both Jew and Gentile.
  6. Paul encourages Timothy and the church in Ephesus, just as he encourages us as individuals and as a church to pray:
    - a) For all states and for all those in authority.
    - b) That all nations will be reached with the gospel.
    - c) That many will respond to God's offer of salvation.
    - d) That the uniqueness of what Jesus did on the cross will not be compromised

#### 3. Questions to consider at home

- 1) Surely we ought to be praying *against* pagan rulers especially those who exploit their subjects and oppress their people. How would Paul respond to such a statement? How would you respond?
- 2) Who is right in the debate between those who argue that 'only *some* will be saved' (Elitism) versus those who argue that '*everybody* will be saved' (Universalism)
- 3) Who is right in the debate between those who argue that *only* Jesus can bridge the gap between 'Man and God' (Exclusivism), versus those who argue that Jesus saves different people in different ways (Inclusivism) and those who argue that God saves in many different ways (Pluralism)?

## The Parish of Wellow

### 1 Timothy 2:1-8 – ‘Paul: Prayer for all people’ Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

#### 1. Talk Passage – 1 Timothy 2:1-8

1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.3 This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a 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 men-- the testimony given in its proper time.7 And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle-- I am telling the truth, I am not lying-- and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. 8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

#### 2. Talk Notes

##### 1. Introduction

- When did we last make a list of people we wanted to pray for? What names would be on our list?
- Timothy was one of Paul's closest companions – Paul had sent Timothy to the church at Ephesus to counter the false teaching that had arisen there.
- Timothy was a young church leader learning the ropes, no doubt by trial and error – Paul writes this letter to give Timothy instruction on how to run and lead a newly growing church effectively.
- In the opening eight verses of Chapter 2 Paul urges Timothy to expand his prayer life and reminds him that:
  - a) The church's prayers should concern all people. (2:1-2)
  - b) God's desire concerns all people (2:3-4)
  - c) Christ's death concerns all people (2:5-6)
  - d) The church's proclamation must concern all people (2:7)

##### 2. The church's prayers should concern all people. (2:1-2)

- Paul tells Timothy that if churches wish to grow and develop they will need to have a global rather than a parochial focus.
- Paul urges the church in Ephesus to pray 'for kings and all those in authority.' He does so for two reasons:
  - a) *That we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*
  - b) That good government fosters the spread of the gospel
- Paul's expects Timothy, the church in Ephesus and us to pray for all states and governments even those who are *not* Christian. Paul's teaching here would imply that it is the duty of the state to keep the peace, to protect its citizens from whatever would disturb it, to preserve law and order and to punish evil and promote good so that within such a stable society the church may be free to worship God, obey his laws and spread the gospel.

Conversely it is the duty of the church to pray for the state, so that its leaders may administer justice and pursue peace.

- Many of us living in the Western world take our stable governments and societies for granted – many of us have no experience what it is like to live in a society racked by war or civil disturbance. Let us be encouraged to pray and thank God for our own government and pray for those war torn areas of the world that they too may experience the peace and stability that we take for granted.
3. God's desire concerns all people (2:3-4)
    - Paul points out to Timothy and the church in Ephesus that God has a global desire for all people to know him and be saved: '*God our Saviour who wants all men to be saved*'
    - Does this mean that *all men will* be saved? There is a clear distinction between *want* and *will*. God wants all to be saved but many will reject his offer which will mean that all men will *not* be saved.
    - Our responsibility however is to preach the gospel and to pray for people's conversion.
  4. Christ's death concerns all people (2:5-6)
    - '*For there is **one** God and **one** mediator between God and men*'
    - Paul explodes here the popular held believe that there are *many* ways to bridge the gap between 'Man and God'.
    - Paul claims only one person can bridge this gap and this is Jesus because of what he has done on the cross.
  5. The church's proclamation must concern all people (2:7)
    - '*to the Gentiles*' - Paul, despite his Jewish heritage and upbringing reconfirms that God's salvation is for *all* – both Jew and Gentile.
  6. Paul encourages Timothy and the church in Ephesus, just as he encourages us as individuals and as a church to pray:
    - a) For all states and for all those in authority.
    - b) That all nations will be reached with the gospel.
    - c) That many will respond to God's offer of salvation.
    - d) That the uniqueness of what Jesus did on the cross will not be compromised.

#### 3. Questions to consider at home

- 1) Surely we ought to be praying *against* pagan rulers especially those who exploit their subjects and oppress their people. How would Paul respond to such a statement? How would you respond?
- 2) Who is right in the debate between those who argue that 'only *some* will be saved' (Elitism) versus those who argue that '*everybody* will be saved' (Universalism)
- 3) Who is right in the debate between those who argue that *only* Jesus can bridge the gap between 'Man and God' (Exclusivism), versus those who argue that Jesus saves different people in different ways (Inclusivism) and those who argue that God saves in many different ways (Pluralism)?