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A Word to the Church
1 Timothy 2:1-7
October 2, 2016

Last week's message finds Paul writing to Timothy regarding the spiritual conditions of the people of Ephesus. He warns Timothy of disruptive teachers and administrators and for him to seek those who preach the true gospel. In that message we discovered the Lord to be a turnaround agent and He calls us to be true praisers and worshippers.

Today, we find Paul teaching Timothy that posture and the practices of the church matters; that the deportment and demeanor of the church matters. Our observance to the teachings of the church makes a difference and an impact on our spiritual maturity and relationship with the Lord. As Christians, we must be disciplined to the point that we not only know the posture and practices of the church, but that we incorporate them in our everyday lives.

As Christians, we must be mindful that the rest of the world is watching the church, therefore, we must be on guard that who we are and what we do reflect the One we are called to serve. We are given three ways we must observe the posture and practices of the church:

1. Our Prayer Life Must Be Comprehensive and not Compartmentalized

As human beings, it's in our nature to compartmentalize. Compartmentalization means to put something in a specific place, to separate into sections, to distinguish, rank, relegate, or sort. We do it in our closets, at work, home, social settings and without thinking. We're either a red state or a blue state, pro this or pro that. But can't we all get a long.

You can't compartmentalize your prayer life. Prayer must be a priority and of utmost importance. Paul gives us ways we should petition God:

- A. Supplication – Making needs known, asking with urgency
- B. Prayers - Daily conversation with the Lord
- C. Intercession - Coming together and making a request on behalf of another
- D. Thanksgiving- Reflecting on your past prayers, giving thanks to God for answering those prayers and anticipating positive answers for future request.

This is where it becomes difficult. Paul says you can't compartmentalize. Your preferences cannot come into play when you pray. You can't just pray for your family and your friends. We've got to also pray for those who we don't like and those who do not agree with us.

I'm good with praying for folk I know and like, but I'm having problems praying for those other folk. But the word says we must pray for all men and women. If the Lord died for all people then we must pray for all people.

1. Prayers Help to Fulfill the Lords Desires for Our Lives.

The Lord's desire is for the church to have peace and righteousness and compel others to come to Him so that all might be saved. Our lives should set the example and become evangelistic examples for others.

Those who fostered erroneous teaching taught that the Lord only wanted a certain type of people to be saved. Paul had to fight against this kind of teaching. It's the Lord's desire that all might be saved.

1. A Positive Prayer Life is Possible Because of the Person of Jesus Christ

It's because of who he is and what he has done. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. He fulfills the requirements, which makes Him the mediator between God and us. Only Christ Jesus is able to do so. He speaks for God and to God on our behalf. I'm glad he is able to restore our relationship with God.

Ransom means instead of, a payment given instead of turning over a prisoner in order to satisfy a debt. Jesus substituted himself to save us from the penalty of sin and death. He loved us enough to become the penalty for us instead of us. He paid the ransom on Calvary's cross where he hung, bled, and died as a substitute for us.

Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe, sin had left a crimson stain but he washed it white as snow.