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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“UNIVERSAL SALVATION AND GENDER SPECIFIC MINSTRY ROLES”**

**1 Timothy 2:1-15**

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***I Timothy 2:1 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men;"***

***I Timothy 2:2 "For kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."***

Paul is now giving some concluding instructions to Timothy. At the top of the list is the topic of prayer. He wants supplication, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings to be made by the church for everyone. In other words, we should make all kinds of prayers for all kinds of people in all kind of situations. "Supplications" means prayers, or requests. "Intercessions" means prayers. Intercessory prayer is generally when you are praying for someone else, not yourself. “Giving of thanks” means in appreciation of God sovereignty in putting whomever He wills in leadership.

***Psalms 75:7***

***7But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.***

Paul especially asks intentional prayers for kings and all those who are in authority. Why? So that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. Paul wants Timothy and the Ephesian church to pray for all leaders (secular and spiritual) so that they will govern well and provide a peaceful environment that will provide Christians with the freedom to follow the true King’s agenda. God expects us to submit to his rule regardless of the political environments in which we live, but in a culture of religious freedom, believers are able to have a more public witness and can share their faith in ways that they could not under an oppressive regime. An orderly, free society is a positive environment for the proliferation of the gospel.

***Proverbs 29:2***

***2When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.***

There are many different types of prayer. There is prayer of adoration to God, there is prayer for a specific request, and there is prayer for others. There are many other prayers. Paul is telling Timothy that the church will be just as strong as the prayers that are prayed for it. It is especially important to pray for those who rule over us. If the leader of the country is a tyrant, it is not very likely that you would live a peaceable life. Pray for the Lord to lead the king to peace in the country. A godly king makes it pleasant for all of his subjects. At the time this was written there was much persecution of the Christians. Leaders, who were led by every little whim of circumstance, could make it very difficult to be a Christian. It was important to pray for the king to be fair and godly in his dealings with the Christians. Paul would know of the hardships of kings who were influenced by ungodly people. He had been imprisoned several times. Sometimes he was held for a long time in prison because the ruler would not make a decision to release him, fearing the people or rulers over them. Paul used the fact that he was a Roman to save himself several times.

***I Timothy 2:3 "For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;"***

***I Timothy 2:4 "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."***

It’s good for Christians to live, work, and minister in such a peaceful environment. Why? Because it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Even though God could permit someone to be in leadership that is not respectable, we must however respect the individual and the office. We should not speak against those God has put in power.

***Hebrews 12:14***

***14Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:***

We will see from the following Scriptures just how important it is to the Lord for all to be saved.

***John 3:17 "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."***

***II Peter 3:9 "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."***

What is the knowledge of the Truth? It is to know Jesus Christ who is the Truth. It is God Himself who wants all men to be saved. Notice that God’s desire is universal: he wants “everyone to be saved.” The gospel is not restricted to any race, gender, ethnicity, class, individual. “Red, yellow, black, and white they are all precious in his sight.” We shouldn’t let anything (no matter how repulsive), or anyone (no matter how hateful) prevent us from reaching the lost.

***Matthew 5:44-45***

***44But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;***

***45That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.***

***I Timothy 2:5 "For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"***

***I Timothy 2:6 "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."***

Before the cross of Christ, there was no way for man to go directly to the Father God. The temple curtain was closed, and no one could enter in except the high priest. He could enter only when he was accompanied by the blood of the sacrifice. God was away from man, and it seemed impossible to reach God. When Jesus was crucified on the cross, the veil of the temple was torn from the top to the bottom opening the way to the common Christian to God. Jesus is the door. He is the Way. He is the only thing we need to reach the Father. We can pray directly to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ and God will hear our prayer. The man Christ Jesus is mentioned here because the veil of separation in the temple was symbolic of the flesh of Jesus. It is the crucifixion of the flesh of Jesus that opened the way for you and me. Jesus is our Mediator. He is our High Priest, He is our intercessor. A mediator is someone who brings two estranged parties together. Sinful humanity stands condemned under the righteous wrath of a holy ﻿God. And only Jesus Christ, the God-Man, can reconcile them. Because of his divine nature, he is sinless. Because of his human nature, he can serve as a substitutionary sacrifice for sinful humans. Knowing this, he gave himself as a ransom for all, that is, he paid the price for everyone (theologians call this unlimited atonement). The judgment of God against rebellious humanity has been completely satisfied through Christ’s sin-bearing work. But to receive the benefits of this sacrifice, you must personally receive Christ’s payment by faith. To get to God, you must go through his Son.

***1 John 2:2***

***2And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.***

***Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."***

***Hebrews 8:6 "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."***

It is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that puts us in right standing with the Father. "Ransom" in the verse above, has to do with Jesus being the substitute for our sin. He purchased our salvation for us with His precious blood. We were captive of sin, until He took our sin upon His body on the cross and sin for us died on the cross. To "testify" means to tell something, because you know it to be a fact. All who have been saved can testify of Jesus. Paul could definitely testify of Jesus. He met Him on the road to Damascus. Paul was to testify to the Gentiles of the fact that Jesus had purchased all who would receive Him with His precious blood.

***I Timothy 2:7 "Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, [and] lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity."***

Paul was ordained by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the gospel message to the Gentiles.

***Acts 9:15 "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:"***

"Verity" means truth. This then is saying, that Paul brought the Truth to the Gentiles. Paul teaches them that faith alone, and not works, will save a man. Possibly, the reason that Paul is saying this again, is because the Judaizers were not pleased with the message that Paul brought. They wanted the Christians to keep the old Mosaic law, even though they were believers in Christ. Paul was reminding Timothy, the message of salvation through faith was the Truth.

***I Timothy 2:8 "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."***

Since prayer is so essential for accomplishing the King’s agenda and proclaiming his gospel message, Paul specifies the kind of prayer ﻿God desires: I want the “men” (males not mankind) in every place to pray. He addresses the men first because they are to take the lead in calling heaven down to earth. Men are called to be leaders in their homes and in their churches. And there’s no more important way to lead among the people of God than by praying for divine intervention. To lift the hands up to heaven when you pray, is a humbling experience (especially for men). It is just recognition of where the answers to prayers come from. We humble ourselves to God in this process and accept the answer He has for us. Jesus is not looking for spectators; he’s looking for participants. He wants followers, not fans. He’s looking for men who are willing to get in the game and get dirty on the field. Leading in prayer is frontline ministry.

***I Timothy 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;"***

***I Timothy 2:10 "But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."***

﻿Women in the church are called to prayer also. But just as men and women are distinct naturally, their ministry is distinct spiritually, so Paul’s exhortation to the women is different. They are to dress modestly. Godly character is to be reflected outwardly in godly apparel. Do not dress in a way that brings inappropriate attention to yourself by either underdressing or overdressing. A woman's beauty should not be her outward appearance of gold, or pearls, or fancy clothes. Her beauty should be from within. Praying Godly women, who are modest in apparel and in their behavior, are a blessing in the church.

***I Timothy 2:11 "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection."***

***I Timothy 2:12 "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."***

***I Timothy 2:13 "For Adam was first formed, then Eve."***

***I Timothy 2:14 "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."***

***I Timothy 2:15 "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."***

Having addressed men and women separately, Paul continues to discuss gender ministry role differences in the church. A woman, for instance, is to learn quietly with full submission. The word that silence was translated from means quietness. Subjection has to do with being subordinate to men in general and her husband specifically. Paul is not calling for an absolute silence, nor is he forbidding women from using their gifts. Indeed in 1 Corinthians 11 Paul encourages women to speak in the church when it is under the proper covering of legitimate male authority. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared first to the women at the tomb, and gave them instruction to go, and tell the others. The others included men. So, what he’s talking about here is the exercise of a ministry role, or an office. He’s talking about teaching and having authority. An overseer / elder / pastor (these terms are interchangeable in the New Testament) is expected both to teach and to govern and lead the church (3:2, 5; 5:17; Titus 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:17). Women are restricted from serving in this role of final authority in the church, where teaching and exercising authority are combined (senior pastor, elder, bishop). Some claim Paul’s words in 2:11-12 are a mere artifact of an ancient male-chauvinist culture. But Paul gives a reason ﻿reason his restriction, and it has nothing to do with cultural norms: Adam was formed first, then Eve. In other words, the limitation on women serving in a role of final authority in the church is based on a creation principle. There was an order to God’s creation of humanity. He made people, male and then female. He created the man first not because the man was superior to the woman, but because he was to be the positional leader. Scripture lays out a pattern of male leadership in the home and in the church. The married couple was to function as an inseparable team, exercising ﻿dominion together over God’s creation, with the man exhibiting godly servant leadership. The man’s role as “head” (i.e., governing authority) over the woman (Ephesians 5:22-23) does not make him superior to her any more than God the Father’s role as “head” makes him superior in essence to the Son of God (1 Corinthians 11:3). Likewise, the husband is to submit to Christ’s headship over him and the wife is to submit to her husband’s headship (Ephesians 5:24; Colossians3:18; 1 Peter 3:1); nonetheless, they are unified in Christ (Galatians 3:28) and ﻿“co-heirs of the grace of life” (1 Peter 3:7). There is no superiority or inferiority. Rather, there is a functional order and continuity. When this clearly defined covenantal order is breached, the door is opened for Satan to sow discord (Genesis 3:1-6) and limit the intervention of angels (1 Corinthians 11:10). Paul provides further biblical support for the restriction on women serving as overseers / elders / pastors: Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and transgressed. Satan caused their roles to be reversed, approaching Eve with his deception while Adam stood silently and watched. Though he was supposed ﻿to take an active role in watching over the garden and keeping God’s command (Genesis 2:15-17), Adam became passive, allowed the devil to tempt Eve, and then knowingly followed her into sin. Importantly, though Eve was deceived, Scripture lays responsibility for humankind’s fall into sin at the feet of Adam (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21). As the “head,” he should have defended both his wife and God’s garden against the lying intruder. In the same way, God-called men are to serve as spiritual guardians and overseers in the church, leading God’s people, teaching ﻿the truth, and equipping the church to guard against Satanic intrusion. The sad thing is that Adam was not deceived. He sinned in full knowledge. Adam actually symbolizes the law, and Eve symbolizes the church. The church is saved by the grace of God, not by the keeping of the law. The Saviour of the world is the seed of the woman. Paul has associated the punishment placed on Eve for being beguiled, as the way to salvation. Then the work of the soil by the sweat of the brow would be the salvation of the man. You can see that this Scripture is not to be taken literally only. It has a double meaning. For men, the toil of the land does not save the man, but men are to “work” the land. For women, bearing of children does not save the woman, but women are the only ones given the ability to “bear” children. Jesus Christ, who is seed of the woman, is the Saviour of us all, whether male or female. She will be saved through childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with good sense. After Adam and Eve rebelled against God, he promised that one day Eve’s offspring would strike the serpent’s head (Genesis 3:15). This is the first biblical prophecy pointing to Jesus Christ. A descendent of Eve would defeat Satan and his power (Hebrews 2:14). What does this have to do with women bearing children today? Every time a believing woman has a baby and raises her child “in faith, love, and holiness,” ﻿she’s preparing another offspring to help put hell on the run. Only Jesus’s work on the cross ultimately defeats the devil. But, as his body, we the church are promised that the devil will also be crushed under our feet (Romans 16:20). Women are to influence their children to be agents of God’s kingdom, battling the enemy through the power of the Holy Spirit. Such a faithful kingdom woman will be saved, that is, “delivered” and experience spiritual victory. Godly childbearing and childrearing is payback against the devil for his deception in the garden; it provides women opportunity to experience spiritual ﻿significance and victory. Single women and those unable to bear children can share in this victory by teaching and discipling the next generation of kingdom warriors.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What are several different words that all mean prayer in verse 1?
2. Who did Paul instruct Timothy to pray for?
3. What makes the church strong?
4. What is the difference between serving a godly king, and one who is not godly?
5. Who does God want to be saved?
6. Why is the Lord delaying His coming?
7. What is the knowledge of the Truth?
8. Who is the mediator between God and man?
9. When was the veil of the temple torn from the top to the bottom?
10. What is "ransom" in verse 6 speaking of?
11. What does "testify" mean?
12. What 2 things did Paul call himself in verse 7?
13. What does "verity" mean?
14. Which message was Paul telling Timothy was the Truth?
15. In verse 8, Paul said to do what when you pray?
16. How are the women to dress?
17. Adam was first formed , then \_\_\_\_\_\_.
18. Adam was not deceived, he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. Eve was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
20. What does Adam symbolize here?
21. What does Eve symbolize?
22. Who is the Saviour of the world?
23. How should verse 15 be taken?