

1Timothy, Chapter Two, Lesson Two

APPOINTED PREACHER 1Timothy 2:5-7

STIMULATE

** In our last study together, the apostle Paul taught us the importance of developing a fervent, evangelistic prayer life; one that is pleasing to God. Do you recall the three forms of prayer we are to employ.

entreaties - praying to fill the need of salvation

prayers - worship for the God of salvation

petitions - get involved in evangelistic prayer by developing more empathy, sympathy, compassion.

** Besides learning how to offer to God an “**Acceptable Prayer**”, what three additional things did we learn about our gracious God?

God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

God commands all men to repent.

God offers His grace for salvation to all men.

Hopefully our hearts have experienced an increase in empathy, sympathy and compassion for the lost over this past week, which reflects our Heavenly Father’s love for the lost world around us. (John 3:16)

MOTIVATE

** The lost world around us welcomes and respects all forms of “religion” brought forth by fallen man. What they do not welcome is Biblical Christianity, which is opposed by the politically correct, collective consciousness of humanity. In their battle cry of tolerance for all, they violate their own standard by attacking the truth of God’s Word and those who live by it. The world honors Jews, Moslems, Buddhists, Hindus and all forms of Humanistic spiritual expression. Every new philosophy and spiritual concept is respected, except for the proclamation of the gospel truth regarding salvation in Jesus Christ.

It is in this hostile environment that Paul will state the truth men need to hear. In today’s passage, the apostle is going to say that he is an “**Appointed Preacher**” with the significant purpose of proclaiming God’s saving truth. Let’s learn together how the example of Paul’s life should impact our own hearts.

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Read Passage (V.5-7)

Opening Prayer

Appointed Preacher

INVESTIGATE

V. 5 ** The apostle Paul knew that the church in Ephesus was under attack by demonic doctrine and by the false teachers who would propagate Satan’s lie. Having just urged us to pray for the souls of all men, Paul now

states one of the most fundamental teachings of Scripture; which itself attacks the core of all false religion. What emphatic statement does Paul make?

“For there is one God...” The common teaching of man made religion in Paul’s day, and in our day as well, is that there are many gods from which we can choose as objects of our worship. cf. 1Chronicles 16:26, Psalm 86:6-10, Isaiah 37:20, Acts 17:22-23

** Why do “all men”, for which we are offering “**Acceptable Prayer**” to God, need to know that there is only one God?

Because men think that they can solve their eternal problems on their own, even if it means that they make up their idols or develop a false religious system to justify themselves. cf. Proverbs 14:12

** Besides our needing one true God for salvation, what else does Paul say we need?

“...and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

** What does a mediator do?

mesites (mediator) refers to one who intervenes between two individuals to restore peace, or ratify a covenant.

** Who is the only man fully qualified to mediate between man and God?

The God-man “Christ Jesus”. As the perfect man and God incarnate, He alone can bring God and man together. No other person in the history of mankind could do what Christ does, His is the only name by which we can be saved. cf. Hebrews 8:6, 9:15 and Acts 4:12

V. 6 ** As God’s perfect mediator on behalf of men, what did Jesus Christ do to bring peace between sinful men and a holy God?

He “gave Himself as a ransom for all”. Our gracious Lord Jesus Christ was not a victim, but rather chose to give Himself for our salvation. cf. John 10:17-18

** What does the term “ransom” bring to your mind?

To pay the full price for someone’s deliverance from slavery. *Lutron* was a common word used for buying a slave’s freedom. Here Paul adds a preposition, making the term *antilutron* to infer that Christ did not merely pay a ransom to free us; but rather His life became our ransom as He died in our place. cf. 1Corinthians 6:20, 1Peter 1:18-19

** How sufficient was this atoning work of Christ? For whom did Christ pay so high a ransom?

He gave Himself as a ransom “**for all**”. The price paid by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary was sufficient to ransom all of mankind.

A nineteenth century theologian by the name of William G.T. Shedd wrote,

“The atonement is sufficient in value to expiate the sin of all men indiscriminately; and this fact should be stated because it is a fact. There are no claims of justice not yet satisfied; there is no sin of man for which an infinite atonement has not been provided.”

** Does that mean that all will be saved?

No - Paul is saying that the self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ is sufficient to pay for the sins of the world. He is not saying that all will take advantage of the offer! Jesus Christ made that very clear in Matthew 20:28 when he said, “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom **for many**”. Christ would go on to say, “many are called, but **few are chosen**” (Matthew 22:14) cf. Matthew 7:21, John 17:12

** What phrase does Paul use at the end of verse six to describe the amazing, sacrificial, atoning work of Jesus Christ?

He calls it “the testimony borne at the proper time.”

** How does the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ give testimony on behalf of our gracious God?

From verse four, our God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”.

** What does Paul mean by saying this testimony was “borne at the proper time”? Who sets the proper time?

God the Father, Himself! Listen to Galatians 4:4-5:

“But when the fullness of the time came, **God sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”
cf. John 7:6, 8, Matthew 26:18 and Acts 2:23

So our evangelistic, “**Acceptable Prayer**” for all men not only reflects the heart of God, but it also honors Christ’s work on the cross.

V. 7 ** According to verse seven, why was Paul an “**Appointed Preacher**”?

Paul said that he had been appointed as a preacher “...for this...”!

** What is the “this” to which he is referring?

This refers to the great truths previously mentioned by Paul. That God is our Savior, He is the only God there is, He is our mediator and through the person of Jesus Christ; He gave Himself as the completely sufficient ransom for our souls!

** “**This**” is the single most important thing in the history of mankind and Paul was an “**Appointed Preacher**”, called to deliver this amazing message. When was he appointed, and by whom?

You may recall from our first study in this epistle that Paul was given this appointment by “the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope...” (1Timothy 1:1) cf. Acts 9:15-16

** What did it mean that Paul was a “preacher”?

Kerusso (preacher) means to herald, proclaim, or speak publicly. Paul was to “herald” the gospel.

** How about us? Could we be an “**Appointed Preacher**”?

Absolutely! We too are to “herald” the good news of the gospel to all men. If we are to be praying for their salvation, we are also to be sharing with them the only means by which they may become saved. cf. 2Timothy 4:2, 1Peter 3:14-15

** Besides a herald, to what other position had Paul been appointed?

An apostle - sent one. Jesus Christ sent this man as an ambassador to the world on behalf of God.

** Even though we are not chosen apostles of Christ like Paul and the twelve, is there a sense in which we are indeed “sent ones” on behalf of God, Christ and the gospel?

Certainly, we have been saved and sent back into this world as His ambassador, representing the saving truth of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ. cf. Matthew 28:19-20 and 2Corinthians 5:17-21

** At this point in the letter, we can almost see Paul’s anticipation of the false teachers there in Ephesus reading over the shoulder of Timothy. What parenthetical statement does he add to validate what he has been saying?

Paul says, “I am telling the truth, I am not lying”.

** The false teacher would immediately object to this statement from Paul, saying that he was lying and that he was not even an apostle of Christ. What impact would their rejection of God’s truth have on that same truth?

It does not change it at all! Though men reject the truth, God still proclaims it through His “sent ones”. cf. Acts 13:46

** What did Paul do with his appointed positions of preacher and apostle?

As we have just seen in Acts 13:46, he became “a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.” The church today remains overwhelmingly in debt to the faithfulness of this man to teach the Gentiles of the world the priceless treasures of the Word of God. We are here today because he fulfilled his ministry. cf. Colossians 4:17, 2Timothy 4:7

** Why do you suppose Paul linked faith with truth and vice versa?

Faith in just any form of religion or philosophy of men will only lead to destruction.

Truth, without faith, will only condemn men to eternal judgment.

Salvation comes about when a fallen sinner places his **faith** in Jesus Christ who brought us grace and **truth**. cf. John 1:17

EXTRICATE

** What was Paul’s message in the opening of our passage for today, that boldly confronted the demonic doctrine and false teachers of his day?

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

DELINEATE

** What two roles did we see the apostle Paul faithfully fulfill in this passage?

The fact that he was an “**Appointed Preacher**” and an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

EVALUATE

** Can we identify with those appointments and even follow in Paul’s footsteps as we walk with the Lord each day?

Absolutely - We are to herald the saving gospel of Christ as He sends us to “all men” living in darkness. We need to tell them that Christ alone is the mediator who can reconcile them to the one and only true God.

ACTIVATE

** Are you willing to answer the call, to recognize your appointment to proclaim God’s saving truth? Let’s ask Him now to awaken our hearts to the pressing need of salvation shared by the lost world around us.

Closing prayer