

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

The gracious, powerful word of God which He had recorded through His Spirit is found in 1 Timothy 2:1-8.

**“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 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, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle -- I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying -- a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”**

So far our text. Dear fellow servants of the word.

Since the time that Adam and Eve fell into sin the world has been filled with strife. It first began with the relationship between God and man when we rebelled against Him. It was further exemplified when Cain murdered Able.

All throughout the Scriptures we can see this kind of reaction of man toward one another. I’m sure it wasn’t long after Adam and Eve started populating the Earth that someone among them said that they all needed to live in peace. We get tired of all the kinds of fighting in the world. And we just want it to end. But the motivation behind these desires makes all the difference.

If we preach peace, even if we say we’re doing it out of love for our fellow man it is worthless unless faith is connected to it. That kind of message gets preached because of our natural knowledge of sin. We know that harming others is wrong. And that often wars are fought for selfish reasons. But when peace is preached for selfish worldly reasons this doesn’t truly profit anyone.

Sometimes people will go so far as to say that if enough groups around the world will preach peace that everyone could finally get along. We just need to try hard enough. But Scripture reveals to us in Matthew 24:6 **“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”**

Now please understand, I’m not justifying violence for any reason. But we are told within our text that there is a very good reason to desire peace. Since the outlook of the world can color our Christian perspective let us be reminded from our text today why we should **“Pray for a peaceable life.”**

The first two verses of our text say, **“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”**

As we heard from the Gospel of Matthew, wars shall continue until the end of time. But in our text we are told in many different and wonderful ways to **“Pray for a peaceable life.”**

One of the ways is through 'supplications.' **Supplication** is to supplicate oneself which means to ask for something humbly and earnestly. Another way is through a **prayer** which is to make one's wishes or desires known. **Intercessions** which means to have a conversation with someone. **Giving of thanks** is a way of saying that we show our gratitude. Even the word that the Holy Spirit had the Apostle Paul use here to encourage Timothy is a form of prayer. The word **exhort** is a prayer of the Apostle to make his desires known.

As you can see, the Lord has given us many wonderful ways to go to Him on behalf of kings, all those in authority and for all men. It is very clear that He wants us to **"Pray for a peaceable life."** But look at whom the Lord wants us to pray for. Kings: The people who received this letter from Paul were being treated ruthlessly by the kings and the people in authority. This included the Jewish leaders. But the Lord tells His people to pray for such as these.

And we all should take upon us the pleasure of doing so. The apostle says of Himself that he **"was appointed a preacher and an apostle."** Although our calling wasn't directly from the Lord like Paul's; we are all called as well to do the things that the Lord requests. He still desires that every single one of you **"Pray for a peaceable life."**

We should do this so we may as our text says, **"lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."** Godliness and reverence is the desire of our Lord for His children. Godliness according to Scripture is the emulation of our God. He is asking us to be as He is. If we live in a place that doesn't allow us to show ourselves openly it restricts the ability of the Christian to be godly.

The Lord wants us to be open and free with the faith He has given us. He says that we should **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."** But if we let our light shine in a world that is not quiet and peaceable the Christian can run into many trials.

Trials or not, we should still conduct ourselves with reverence. Reverence is serious and worthy conduct which earns respect. Just as Jesus glorified His Father in Heaven with His conduct, so should we with our conduct. Philippians 1:27 **"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."**

It shouldn't make any difference where we are or what we are doing. We should always exemplify the Father in all the things that we do. Not only when we are amongst one another, but especially when we are in the world. 1 Peter 2:12 says, **"having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."**

As fellow Christians, we should be compassionate with one another concerning our sins. We now know that we are sinful. We can now testify of ourselves as Isaiah did. **"But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags."** When we know this about ourselves it gives us the attitude to want to bear one another's burdens.

But to the world sees things very differently. If you're seen by the world as not being godly or reverent then it doesn't glorify our Father in heaven. It actually puts a stumbling block in the way of the preaching of the Gospel.

And an aspect of this that is truly wonderful is that the Lord desires that we have a quiet and peaceable life. Our text says, **"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior."** But this desire on the behalf of our Lord is not the same as what the world has. As sinners we have the law written in our hearts. We are simply reacting to what we know because of it. But the desires and intentions of our God are something that we need to have spelled out to us. And our text does it perfectly.

Our text says that God our Savior **"desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."** The Lord desires that we **"Pray for a peaceable life"** not for ourselves, but to glorify Him. He wants us to be godly and reverent to glorify Him. Not political causes and theology of the world.

The world preaches empty statements such as "Give peace a chance" in the desire to remedy wars and rumors of wars. They preach a theology that will do nothing to remove the attitude of Cain from the hearts of man.

But thanks be to God that "His thoughts are not our thoughts, Nor are our ways His ways." If they were we would be missing out on the most important message to preach that has come to man. Our text reads, **"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all."**

It's not hard to admire the commitment many of the people who preach for peace have. They try to be a mediator of their ideas to mankind. But what a difference there is between that and the Mediator Jesus Christ. Being a mediator is one that reconciles differences between those who have a dispute. And there is no question that man and God need a reconciler. We certainly do have a dispute to be settled. It is the dispute of our sin.

And our text says that God specifically sent His Son to mediate between Him and man. We have the Lord coming for all mankind. We don't have the Lord specifying which social group He cares for the most. He doesn't specify which sex He cares for the most. He doesn't specify which age group He wants to mediate for. He sent His son to mediate on your behalf.

This Mediator is someone who is qualified to mediate. Our text specifically points out that this Mediator was **"the Man Christ Jesus."** The Lord doesn't know sin in a way that He can be bargained with. He has never tasted it. But by sending His Son, God Himself in the flesh the Father could see someone who could sympathize with both parties.

Hebrews 4:15 says, **"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."** But when our text says **"the Man Christ Jesus"** we see something amazing here. The Man Jesus being called the Christ. The Messiah. Jesus is being testified to as being God Himself. And because of that He can not only sympathize and mediate on behalf of man. He can sympathize and mediate on the behalf of God.

When Jesus Christ, the God man laid down His life for you - He was the Perfect Mediator. The shedding of His blood was the payment that we were required to make. But we are unable to because of our sins. He was able because He was the Perfect Mediator. So perfect that He gave Himself a ransom for all. He gave Himself to be the ransom for you.

Let us thank God that He has been true to His word in hearing our prayers so that we have a quiet and peaceable life. But if any of us are struggling, let us take encouragement when we consider the situation that these early Christians were dealing with. And yet, the Lord even asked them to **“Pray for a peaceable life.”** And let us pray that we continue to do it to the glory of the Father in all godliness and reverence and for the sake of the Man Christ Jesus who gave Himself a ransom for all. For you. Amen.