

PAUL'S DESIRE | 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-3

- Paul has a four-part exhortation:
 - Make **supplications**
 - The word literally means “to ask for something.”
 - The focus is on *need*, and trying to fill it.
 - Offer **prayers**
 - Of the four on the list, this is the only one that is a word that, in the New Testament, is restricted to God alone.
 - If you are going to talk about someone, talk to God about them!
 - Provide **intercessions**
 - Paul asks us to be the one that *takes up someone else's need(s) and becomes their advocate*.
 - While prayer leaves something at God's feet, an intercessor sometimes “puts feet to their prayers.”
 - Be regular in the **giving of thanks**
 - We should be regular in giving thanks both to God and to others.
 - Our world is not as “thank you” oriented as it once was – or needs to be.
- Paul's exhortation is directed to believers, who are to carry out the exhortation to two groups of people:
 - These four things should be made **for all men**.
 - Clearly it would be impossible (and unproductive) to do this in a general way for all mankind.
 - It is not impossible to make it your life habit of being this way *for all the people you encounter*.
 - Specifically, Paul mentions **kings** and those **in authority**.
 - These are individuals that, whether we like it or hate it, have significant influence in our lives.
 - These are individuals that we likely do not know on a personal basis, but we are influenced by them on a regular basis.

GOD'S DESIRE | 1 TIMOTHY 2:4-7

- Paul's reason for his exhortation can bring great satisfaction into your life: **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all goodness and honesty**.
 - Our world has forgotten the joy of a **quiet and peaceable life**.
 - Somewhere the *purpose-driven life* became more important than the *quiet and peaceable life*. And in striving to find some grand purpose, many people have lost the quietness and peace of a life of goodness and honesty.
- God's primary desire is that all men be saved.
 - The clarity of this verse is startling, especially in the light of a large segment of Christianity that does not believe it on its most basic level.
 - We must recognize that just because God wants **all men to be saved** does not mean that all men must be saved. God has given a freedom of will that allows men to reject His free gift.
- God's corresponding desire is that all men **come to a knowledge of the truth**.
 - To be saved is a wonderful beginning...but only the beginning.
 - Don't be held captive by lack of knowledge. Today there is no reason you cannot know whatever you want to know.
- God's method of making all of this possible:
 - He sent a **mediator between God and man**
 - That Mediator **gave himself a ransom for all**
- The full understanding of what God had done was **to be testified in due time**.
 - This is a sign of the truth of dispensational thinking.
 - Why wouldn't God want it to be *testified immediately*? Because, dispensationally, it was not **due time**.
 - Many Scriptures speak to this truth:
 - Galatians 4:4
 - Romans 11:25
 - 1 Corinthians 13:8.