

Dear friends and family,

This week I continue my study on the book of 1 Timothy as I work through the Pastoral Epistles. I am reminded this morning about God's absolute goodness. God is good, all the time! God is good by His very nature, therefore, He can do nothing that is not good. Anything and everything that God does is by definition good.

How can God be good when bad things, like natural disasters, take place in this world all the time? While God is always good, this world is sinful and fallen. The very Earth is cursed due to the fall of humanity (Genesis 3:17).

Pastor's Point of View

The question of the week: **In light of fear and disaster, how should I pray?**

*First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers,
petitions and thanksgivings be made
on behalf of all men. 1 Timothy 2:1*

Day 1

READ – 1 Timothy 2:1-8

First things first! Paul has finished his greetings to Timothy and he dives straight into the most important item, prayer. Here Paul urges Timothy to pray, personally, but remember he is also instructing Timothy to teach his congregation at Ephesus these things. (1 Timothy 1:3)

Paul instructs Timothy to pray four types of prayers, the first of which is supplication or entreaties. A supplication is a personal petition. It is grounded in the specifics of want or lack. In supplication we pray for specific, felt, urgent needs, imploring God's aid in some particular matter. With an impending hurricane each of us can understand exactly what supplication is today.

1. How do you need to be praying for yourself today?
2. Your immediate family?
3. What supplications do you need to offer up to God for your church family?
4. Finally, offer specific supplications for our community and all those affected by this storm.

Day 2

READ – 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Keep this entire section of scripture in mind all week. Reading it each day, you will glean much wisdom from it as you also pray each of these four different types of prayers. The second prayer Paul urges Timothy to use is simply translated as prayers. This term means an earnest exchange directed toward God. Properly, this denotes a specific place dedicated to the act of prayer. In the context of 1 Timothy, it is interesting to note that all of these four types of prayer are given in the plural form. Again, Paul is writing to Timothy, giving him instructions for the church. The plural form of this word likely connotes the church coming together, in a specific place, for corporate prayer.

1. When you pray, do you think of your prayers as an earnest exchange directed toward God? How might that exchange look different for you moving forward?
2. Do you have a specific place where you offer up to God your prayers?
3. How important is it that the church come together for corporate prayer?

Day 3

READ – 1 Timothy 2:1-8

The third type of prayer Paul writes about is intercession or petitions. This word means ‘to approach the King’. It is a form of supplication, but one that specifically seeks the will of God. The root of this Greek word means ‘to strike the bulls-eye’. It is contrasted with the Greek word for sin, *harmartia*, which means ‘to miss the mark’. In intercession, we search diligently for the “mark” and how we can be conformed to hit it rather than miss it. “It follows then that there is special efficacy in scripture based prayers.” (Johnson and Duncan, *Give Praise to God*)

1. Do you have your Bible open when you pray?
2. Do you alternate reading and praying scripture?
3. How can you make a concerted effort today to pray scripture?
4. The will of God is revealed in scripture, make intercession that you may be in God’s will.

Day 4

READ – 1 Timothy 2:1-8

The final type of prayer that Paul speaks of here is thanksgiving. This prayer is specifically focussed on the giving of thanks for God’s grace as an act of worship. This is the only one of the four that it is specifically noted in the original language that it is an act of worship. In fact, the Greek word for thanksgiving is *eucharistia*. The transliteration of this word into English is

eucharist, which is the term for the Lord's supper or communion. When we partake of communion, we are giving thanks to God for His provision of grace, His son Jesus Christ, crucified for us. We do so as an act of worship, bowing in thanksgiving, in remembrance of His sacrifice. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

1. No matter what your circumstance is today, you can be thankful for Christ's sacrifice.
2. Offer up an act of worship this day with your prayers of thanksgiving.
3. What four blessings does Paul specifically mention will be ours if we pray in this manner in verse 2?
4. Does he say that everything will always be great and we will be happy all the time?
5. What is God's desire? (vs. 3-4)

When we pray, we should pray for ourselves, for all men, for kings and all who are in authority. This is our witness. We lift up all things in prayer, seeking out the will of God, so that we may live in peace and quiet, in all godliness and dignity. Our character should speak for itself when we have an attitude of prayer. To the glory of God so that Christ may be preached throughout all the world!

That all men, in every place, would PRAY!

-Pastor Matt

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*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*

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*of the message. "May the LORD bless you and keep, may He make His face shine upon you."
Numbers 6:24-25*