

Our Duty to Pray for Our Leaders I Tim. 2:1-8

Who prays?

- All believers are told to pray (Eph. 6:18, Col. 4:2, I Thess. 5:17,18) but here the focus is on *men* praying, see 2:8 = *males*. *Men* in 2:1 = *everyone*. Note the focus in 2:9ff. is on the women.
- Reason for male focus is the setting, 3:15, and goal of male leadership.

Whom are we to pray for?

- Pray for *all* people, but government leaders are specifically singled out.
- Reason for such prayer is that it's easy to pray only for family & friends.

What should we be praying for in behalf of these people?

- Salvation for the lost should be our prayer--especially for gov. leaders
- Note emphasis on *all* people and *one* God/mediator, Jn. 14:6, I Pt. 3:9.
- Implication of 2b is that our prayers are also for leaders to rule wisely.

Why is important for us to pray this way?

- Our goal is to be enabled to peacefully live out our faith in all *godliness* (1st of 8x in book), as in I Thess. 4:11,12, Jer. 29:7.
- Remember God's very purpose for government = Rom. 13:1-7, I Pt. 2:13,14, even though this often is not the case, Lk. 21:12, I Tim. 3:11-13.

What should be our condition as we pray?

Lifting up holy hands = fig. of speech for praying w/purity, Isa. 1:15-17; plus unity is key—you need to have peace if you are praying for it!

