

PCC

10.18.20

1. What was the best part of your week? Worst part?

2. Thinking back on Sunday's sermon, how often do you praise or simply thank God in your prayers? Which of the 4 functions of prayer discussed on Sunday come naturally to you, and which are more difficult?

- Petition — praying with a sense of desperation
- Prayer — specific and purposeful prayer with intentionality
- Intercession — praying on behalf of others
- Thanksgiving — being grateful to God for man

3. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2 — If Paul was writing this letter to you, who do you think he would have to remind you to pray for? In other words, who do you find it most difficult to genuinely care and pray for? How might praying for these people lead to a “quiet and tranquil life?”

- “Paul urged the church to especially pray for those in authority. Godless Emperor Nero was on the throne at that time, and yet the believers were supposed to pray for him! Even when we cannot respect men or women in authority, we must respect their offices and pray for them. In fact, it is for our own good that we do so: “that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” The early church was always subject to opposition and persecution, so it was wise to pray for those in authority.”
- “‘Quiet’ refers to circumstances around us, while ‘peaceful’ refers to a calm attitude within us. The results should be lives that are godly and honorable.”

4. Read Romans 13:1-10 — In what circumstances has God allowed his people to rebel against the government? How do we know when it's acceptable to do so, and when we should submit? How might following Paul's commands in verses 8-10 better allow us to follow his commands in verses 1-7?

- There are several other passages that show God approves of Christians disobeying government, but only when obedience to government would mean disobeying God (*Ex. 1:17, 21; 1 Kings 18:4–16; Est. 4:16; Dan. 3:12–18; 6:10; Matt. 2:12; Acts 5:29; Heb. 11:23*). There were even times when God raised up leaders to rebel against the government and deliver his people from evil rulers (*Ex. 1–14; Judg. 2:16; Heb. 11:32–34*).
- Paul summarizes all moral law for believers in verse 9 with the following command: Love your neighbor as yourself. Making this our chief priority allows us to put aside political differences and pursue the well-being of others. This humility allows us to submit to authority as it reflects our submission to God's sovereignty.

5. Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4 — What do we learn about God in these verses? How do these truths impact your relationship with Him? How do you reconcile the fact that God wants everyone to be saved with the reality that not everyone is or will be?

- Paul directly connected evangelism with pleasing God in this verse. Prayer for the lost pleases God because God wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. However, God's desire to save the lost does not mean that all will be saved. Each individual has to come to the knowledge of the truth of the gospel and respond to it in faith, a reference to conversion.
- The Greek word translated "saved" can convey various meanings, including "to deliver, preserve, protect, heal," and "make whole." In the context of 1 Timothy 2:4 the word refers specifically to conversion, to the transformation that occurs when a person accepts Jesus Christ as Savior. Paul understood salvation in the believer's experience as embracing the past, present, and future. The initial moment of salvation, occurring when an individual accepts Christ as Savior, is sometimes referred to as justification. At that moment a believer enters into an eternally secure relationship of peace with God. Salvation, however, also continues in a process called sanctification or becoming more like Christ. The believer is enabled to progress toward spiritual maturity through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

6. From this sermon and study, what's one thing God might be calling you to put into practice this week?

7. Spend some time praying for and encouraging each other.