

January 13, 2019

“Be the Guardian”

“...guard what God has entrusted to you...”

1 Timothy 6:20a

“Be the Guardian of Your Prayer Life”

Chapter 2

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.”

1 Timothy 2:1

A. Let’s just deal with the “tuff stuff” first...

“And I want women...” but what about “I want men...” Vs 9-15

1. First, let’s understand that all Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2. Second, all Scripture needs to be understood in context.
What is before and after? What is the total context of Scripture? What is the historical context? What is the cultural context? What is the literary context?
3. Third, Scripture does not conflict with itself. If there is a conflict, then it is in our understanding, not in Scripture.

“Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.” 2 Peter 1:20-21

“Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to Him for protection.” Proverbs 30:5

B. So, what are these verses telling us?

1. There is a difference between books of instruction and books of correction. The Gospels and Acts are books of instruction. Corinthians and 1 and 2 Timothy are books of correction.
2. This time period was a time of house churches and was new in its worship.
3. The Greek culture of Ephesus valued the meekness and quietness of women.
4. The Greco-Roman world trained very few women in education or public speaking.

5. The Jewish culture rarely educated girls in the Scriptures and rarely did women ever teach men.
6. From Scripture, we understand that both man and woman are created in the image of God.
7. Both are equal in their God-like personhood.

“There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

8. Both men and women are in complementary roles and both are different.

“So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:27

9. In verses 9 and 10, Paul uses a literary device called synecdoche meaning “a *part is used to signify the whole*.” Modesty is always the choice to be used for all worship.

“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4

10. In verses 11-15 Paul uses several analogies to assist and not confuse in the understanding.
 - a. “Silence” is used in verses 2 and 12 with the same meaning of “peaceful and quiet”. Meaning, we should not compromise authority by distractions.
 - b. Paul is not saying that all women should not teach men, otherwise, he is in conflict with his previous writings. Phoebe was a deacon, church leader in Rome (Romans 16); Euodia and Syntyche were two women who worked side by side with Paul in sharing the gospel (Philippians 4); Paul gave instruction about women praying or prophesying in church (1 Corinthians 11); Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos (Acts 18); and Philip had four daughters with a gift of prophesying (Acts 21).
 - c. It is very obvious that Eve took the temptation first, but Adam was right there with her and denied his spiritual leadership position. Sin resulted from both not following their designated responsibilities. Headship vs. submission. Position vs. influence.
 - d. All women would not be saved by childbearing or every woman with children would go to heaven! Certainly in conflict with other Scripture. Faith, love, holiness, and modesty are a practice for men and women!

“Give my greetings to Tryphena and Tryphosa, the Lord’s workers, and to dear Persis, who has worked so hard for the Lord.” Romans 16:12

C. Be the Guardian of your prayers...

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.” Vs 1-4

1. Your prayer life should include an urgency! Keep your ship afloat by keeping a clear conscience.

“I urge you, (then)...” Vs 1

- a. A bad conscience drills holes in the bottom of the ship.
 - b. To plug the holes, we need to change our ways to faith.
 - c. Or, we will sink into unbelief.
2. Your prayer life should include a broad scope!
 - a. We need to pray for our government leaders. Little good is done by our little power. Great good is done by what our great God can do. Prayer reaches farther than anything we can do.
 - b. Pray specifically rather than in generalities. It is your easiest step of love.

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.” Luke 6:27

“And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.” Matthew 24:11-12

- c. No one is beyond the grace of God. It is hard to pray for “kings” as they are far away, we don’t know them, and we will never see them. Generally, rulers are godless and don’t listen to the Holy Spirit. God has used rulers to punish or reward His people. If you want your prayers to do the greatest good for the most people, pray for your rulers!

“The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases.” Proverbs 21:1

“You can make many plans, but the LORD’s purpose will prevail.” Proverbs 19:21

3. Your prayer life should include specific ways for God to work.
 - a. Ask God to help them!
 - b. Intercede for them!
 - c. Give thanks for them!
4. Your prayer life’s ultimate goal is to prepare the way that everyone might be saved and come to understand the Truth.

“This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.” Vs 4

D. Be the Guardian of prayer in your life...

1. Remember, prayer touches heaven! God hears!
2. Prayers are a matter of the heart.
3. Be yourself in prayer! Make it personal.
4. Don't limit what God can do through your prayers.
5. You might use a pattern to help...ACTS!
6. Don't get weary in prayer.
7. Guard your thoughts so you can be in a mindset open to prayer at any time!

"One day Jesus told His disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up." Luke 18:1

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6-7

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." James 5:16