Healthy Churches

**Pray**

Part 1: Pray for Gospel Conversions

(1 Timothy 2:1-7)

*1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

*5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

*6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. 7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth (ESV).*

“supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings”

These four different words overlap in meaning. It is difficult to divide them and get four unique expressions of prayer outside of requests and thanksgiving. The first three are almost synonyms. If we summarize the idea behind all four words, we would get the following ideas of prayer:

* Prayer involves diligent and emotional pleading and earnest begging of God
* Prayer involves clear, thought out statements that accord with proper biblical precepts
* Prayer involves rejoicing and gratitude over God and His answer to requests

*Gospel Inclusive Prayer: pray for everyone’s soul* (2:1-4)

* This impacts national leaders (v. 1)
* This pleases God (v. 3)
* This brings people to the truth (v. 4)

*Gospel Exclusive Prayer: pray for people to embrace the narrow gospel* (2:5-7)

* There is one God (v. 5a)
* There is one mediator to God (v. 5b)

“Paul argues that because there is only one God, all people must be the object of prayer since all can be saved only through the one God and the one mediator.”

**William Mounce**

**Matthew 7:13-14**

13Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

* There is one payment for our sin (v. 6a)

**Mark 10:45**

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

* There is one time that payment was made (v. 6b)

**Galatians 4:4**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.

* There are commissioned messengers to proclaim this truth (v. 7)