

STUDY 3

FIRST OF ALL, PRAY

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To be more effective in praying evangelistic prayers.
- ❖ To explain how a quiet and godly life contributes to the church's witness.
- ❖ To be able to defend the uniqueness of Jesus to those of other religions.
- ❖ To discover how to identify what God has called *you* to do and why.



BACKGROUND

Some scholars believe that many Christians had become somewhat disheartened that the return of Christ had not yet happened. These scholars suggest that Paul was anticipating that, as a result of this disappointment, Christians needed to prepare to live in a hostile world where they would have to endure persecution. But there are other scholars who have a different perspective. They too acknowledge that Paul was preparing believers for what was about to happen (persecution and martyrdom), but rather than Paul guiding them into retreat, he was exhorting them to continue to reach out. And this was to begin with how he wanted them to pray.

81. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 4:47:19 pm
Acts 26:18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

82. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 4:48:46 pm
Eph. 1:5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

83. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 4:55:26 pm
Gen. 17:18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"
Gen. 17:19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

84. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 4:56:55 pm
Gen. 21:1 ¶ The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.
Gen. 21:2 And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.

85. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 5:09:32 pm
preaching

86. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 5:14:49 pm
Eph. 3:8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
Eph. 3:9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

87. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 5:18:35 pm
1Th. 2:16 by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

88. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 5:19:21 pm
praying

89. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 5:21:55 pm
1Tim. 2:1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

Objective 1. To more effectively pray evangelistic prayers.

Prayer seems to confuse many believers. After all, if God is the One who opens the eyes of the spiritually blind (note Acts 26:18) and also predestines people to be saved (refer to Eph. 1:5) then what difference does *praying* make? Perhaps a way to understand why we should pray is to consider that while God ordains the outcome of an event that He wills, He also ordains the means by which it is to be fulfilled.

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1. Consider the promise to Abraham and Sarah that God ordained to fulfil recorded in Genesis 17:19, and note its ordained fulfilment recorded in Genesis 21:1-2. Without going into any detail, what *means* might God have ordained for this promise to be fulfilled for Abraham and Sarah to have their *own* son? Could this promise to Abraham and Sarah that they would have their *own* son have been fulfilled if they had done nothing in response to God's promise?

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The New Testament seems to make it clear that God has ordained the *means* by which people will be saved. This includes p _____ g (Eph. 3:8-9; 1Thess. 2:16) and p _____ g.

85 86
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89 90

2. Of all the issues that needed addressing in the Ephesian Church, what is it that Paul tells Timothy must be his *first* priority? (1Tim. 2:1-2)
 - (a) To commence teaching a course on advanced theology.
 - (b) To change the colour of the carpet in the church to make it easier for the cleaners to shampoo.
 - (c) To call for, and to lead, the church to begin praying for their political leaders, all in authority, and for all people.
 - (d) To set up teams of street witnesses who can confront people with the Gospel and present them with an evangelistic tract.

90. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 March 2021 at 5:27:31 pm

1Tim. 2:2 for kings and all who
are in high positions, that we may
lead a peaceful and quiet life,
godly and dignified in every way.

91. Dr. Andrew Corbett
3 March 2021 at 5:33:10 pm
pleading

92. Dr. Andrew Corbett
9 March 2021 at 9:36:51 pm
1Tim. 2:3 This is good, and it is
pleasing in the sight of God our
Savior,
1Tim. 2:4 who desires all people
to be saved and to come to the
knowledge of the truth.

93. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 7:45:45 am
1Tim. 2:2 for kings and all who
are in high positions, that we may
lead a peaceful and quiet life,
godly and dignified in every way.

94. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 7:46:06 am
1Tim. 2:4 who desires all people
to be saved and to come to the
knowledge of the truth.

95. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 8:13:34 am
For the Emperor, kings,
governors, rulers

96. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 8:14:34 am
The context indicates that Paul
wanted believers to pray for the
salvation of these officials.

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

Timothy is instructed to lead prayerful *pleas* (“supplications”, “entreaties”) to God on behalf of those who do not know Christ. This conveys the sense of

91] p _____ g to God to have have mercy on the unsaved and to bring them to salvation. To *intercede* is to ‘stand in the gap for someone’. Therefore to intercede for a person in prayer means that a believer prays earnestly on behalf of another person. When F.W. Boreham lived near Dunedin in New Zealand he would often visit the criminal court to observe how a lawyer pleaded to a judge and jury for the life and acquittal of someone charged with murder. He noted how passionately, persistently, and prepared, these lawyers were as they interceded on behalf of their clients. He reasoned that since these lawyers would go to such great lengths to save someone from jail or the gallows, how much more should he be passionate, persistent, and prepared to intercede in his preaching and prayers for those in peril of eternal judgment?

3. Write the name of someone for whom you could intercede for their salvation this week-

92] Note how **First Timothy 2:3-4** informs how we can pray for the lost.

Objective 2. To explain how a quiet and godly life contributes to the church’s witness.

4. Note who Paul instructs that prayers and thanksgivings be made for in 93] 94] **First Timothy 2:2**. How does **verse 4** reveal the kind of prayers that Paul meant?

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96] _____

In praying and thanking God for these governing leaders to come to the knowledge of the Saviour, Paul saw that the end result would allow believers to live in a certain way.

97. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 8:21:07 am
that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

98. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 8:21:32 am
Then, believers would be allowed/able to live peaceful, quiet, godly, dignified lives.

99. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 8:22:21 am
Paul never instructs for believers to pray for a change in their circumstances. The salvation of others is more important than us enjoying a comfortable lifestyle.

100. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 8:28:23 am
1Pet. 2:12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

101. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 8:28:40 am
1Pet. 3:16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

102. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 8:29:05 am
Matt. 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

103. Dr. Andrew Corbett
7 March 2021 at 8:29:30 am
Titus 2:8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

104. Dr. Andrew Corbett
9 March 2021 at 9:43:37 pm
1Tim. 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

105. Dr. Andrew Corbett
10 March 2021 at 11:45:18 am
This verse states that Jesus is the "one" mediator between God and mankind. This makes Jesus unique.

106. Dr. Andrew Corbett
9 March 2021 at 9:52:03 pm
mediator

107. Dr. Andrew Corbett
9 March 2021 at 9:53:54 pm
incarnate

108. Dr. Andrew Corbett
9 March 2021 at 9:54:44 pm
God

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

5. Note what Paul considered to be the result of such prayers being answered (1Tim. 2:2b), and consider why the New Testament didn't simply instruct for believers to pray for this result instead of praying for the salvation of civic officials.

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6. In seeking to be a witness for Christ even in a hostile world, what did the Holy Spirit have Apostle Peter write in First Peter 2:12 and 3:16? What is the relationship of this exhortation to Paul's exhortation to pray for the lost? (Note also Matthew 5:16; Titus 2:8)

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Objective 3. To be able to defend the uniqueness of Jesus to those of other religions.

7. Consider First Timothy 2:5. In what way does this verse present Jesus Christ as unique?

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No other religion claims that their founder was the m_____r between God and man. Jesus Christ was uniquely qualified to be so because He was God i_____e which means He was both fully _o_ and fully _a_ (Phil. 2:6-8).

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8. Based on First Timothy 2:6, who can now be saved and how might this statement by Paul have challenged those Jews who felt that salvation was only for those who were (or had become) Jews?

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109. Dr. Andrew Corbett

9 March 2021 at 9:59:47 pm
man

110. Dr. Andrew Corbett

9 March 2021 at 9:58:40 pm
Phil. 2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
Phil. 2:7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

111. Dr. Andrew Corbett

10 March 2021 at 11:44:13 am
1Tim. 2:6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

112. Dr. Andrew Corbett

10 March 2021 at 11:44:20 am
Paul states that Christ gave His life as a ransom for "all", not just Jews, but all people no matter what their ethnicity.

113. Dr. Andrew Corbett

10 March 2021 at 12:05:20 pm
Matt. 26:63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

114. Dr. Andrew Corbett

10 March 2021 at 12:13:20 pm
1Tim. 2:7 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.

115. Dr. Andrew Corbett

10 March 2021 at 12:15:34 pm
1Tim. 2:7 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.

116. Dr. Andrew Corbett

10 March 2021 at 12:15:42 pm
Paul knew that he 'appointed' or 'called' by God to be a preaching and an apostle. He also knew to whom he had been called to conduct his ministry - Gentiles.

117. Dr. Andrew Corbett

10 March 2021 at 12:24:42 pm
apostle

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

Objective 4. To discover how to identify what God has called you to do and why.

In the opening chapter of First Timothy Paul had referred "certain persons" (1Tim 1:6) who it seems had been accusing Paul of ignorance and not really understanding the truth about God or salvation. In defending his understanding and ministry, Paul invokes the Jewish practice of *speaking under oath* (something that Caiaphas did in the trial of the otherwise silent Jesus who was then compelled to speak because the High Priest had put Him under a sacred oath to tell the truth - note Matt. 26:63). In **First Timothy 2:7** Paul essentially puts himself under a sacred oath to assert both the truthfulness of his message and his ministry.

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9. What was Paul's ministry, and how was he so sure about it? (1Tim. 2:7)

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You may never have had a 'Damascus Road' experience like the Apostle Paul where Jesus appeared to him and announced his call to be a *herald* and an **a _____ e**. But if you have been walking in heartfelt obedience to Christ for some time, you probably have a sense of *who* God has called you to be, and a growing sense of what He has called you to do.

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10. How might your involvement in your local church community be a help to you to identify or confirm your ministry and/or spiritual gift/s?

APPLICATIONS

Discuss and share-

11. List three prayer strategies that you could implement over the next four weeks to more effectively pray evangelistic prayers -

12. If the leadership of our church authorised you to organise a group of volunteers from our church to do an outreach “act of service” for our local community, what would you organise, and how would you maximise its impact?

13. If you befriended a Muslim and he or she claimed that Qur’an endorsed that the New Testament was indeed the “Word of Allah” and that it also described Jesus as merely a great prophet, how would you make your case from the New Testament that Jesus was more than just a great prophet to your Muslim friend?

14. There are several indicators that help us to realise who God has called us to be and what God has gifted us to do. Considering three of those indicators, what do you most often find yourself serving God, what are you often most critical about, and, what is it that most of those who know you encourage you about? Based on these three considerations, what you feel God has gifted and called you to do? As others share their answers, about their callings, evaluate whether you agree with their assessment and then be open to feedback from others when you share what you believe to be what God has called you to do.
