

IT'S ALIVE!

CHECKING THE VITALS OF THE CHURCH



Where we've been:

Week 1 – A Gospel-Centered Church – 1 Peter 2:4-6

Christ is the Cornerstone, the true reason for all we do...

Week 2– A Maturing Church – Ephesians 4:1

God transforms our WALK (obedience)

TODAY : A Praying Church



Description of the early church in the book of ACTS:

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42




Today's Main text: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

1) **First of all**, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be made **on behalf of all men**, 2) for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3) This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.



5) For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6) who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. 7) For this reason I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 8) Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, **lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.**



PRAY FIRST!

Question: Is prayer our first response, or is it our 'last resort'?

Verse 1

“The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know.” (The Message)

“... that entreaties and *prayers*, petitions and *thanksgivings*...” (NASB)



“Prayer Goads”....

“Much prayer, much power! No prayer, no power.”

Peter Deyneka, Sr. (founder of Slavic Gospel Association)

“When a local church ceases to depend on prayer, God ceases to bless its ministry.”

Warren W. Weirsbe



PRAY WIDE !

All Men.....

Those in authority over us...

“redemptive praying”



“Prayer goad”....

“The wider the subjects for prayer the larger becomes the vision of the soul that prays.”

Donald Guthrie



PRAY WITH

Dependence

- Psalm 123:2

Holy hands

- Psalm 66:18; Psalm 139:23,24

Relational Peace

- Matthew 5:23,24; 1 Peter 3:7



CLOSING THOUGHTS

One final “prayer goad”....

“We do not pray because we do not care, we do not care because we do not pray.”

Pastor Chip Hard



An example to emulate (Hebrews 13:7) – Epaphras

“Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondslave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always ***laboring earnestly*** for you in his prayers, that you may stand (stand firm) perfect (complete or mature) and fully assured in the will of God. For I testify for him that ***he has a deep concern*** for you and for those in Laodicea and Hierapolis.”

Colossians 4: 12&13



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