



First Timothy

The Truth

God's Truth Brings Salvation

I Timothy 2:3-7

Lesson Eight



First Timothy

A Study of the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to His Son in the Faith

The Truth

Our Scripture lesson for today begins with a reference to what Paul had just said to Timothy. He said in verses one and two that we should pray for everyone, which brings us peaceful and quiet lives in godliness and holiness. Read I Timothy 2: 1, 2. He said that is good, and that God wants all people to be saved and to know the truth. Read I Timothy 2:3-7.

When we pray for others, God is pleased. He is pleased for several reasons. First, He is pleased because we are talking to Him. He wants us to come into His presence and visit with Him. Second, when we pray for others, we show compassion and our prayer for them will motivate us to be more involved in their lives. Third, our prayer for them will mean that they have more opportunity for their salvation.

And, according to verse four, God wants everyone to be saved. We must always remember that God really, truly wants everyone to become His child. No one is left out. Everyone is invited. And, not only to be saved (become His child) but to know the truth. God doesn't want anyone to be without His truth.

Jesus came to make sure that we had the whole truth. In the tenth chapter of John, Jesus said that he had come so that we could have life and that the life He gives would be a full life. (John 10:7-10) In the fourteenth chapter of John, Jesus said that if anyone sees or knows Him, they know and have seen the Father. (John 14:7) The truth is that complete and eternal life comes only through Jesus.

Paul goes on to list things included in the truth (verse5). First, he says that there is one God. Now the Jews and others believed in one God. But, most of the Romans believed in many Gods. (See Acts 16:17-21) But, Paul doesn't stop there. He says, second, that there is also one mediator between God and humans. That mediator is Christ Jesus. A mediator is someone who goes back and forth between two persons showing them the way to unity. We are brought to unity with God through Jesus the Messiah, God's only Son.

As we have said, the Romans, and also the Greeks, believed that there were many gods. And if there were many gods then there would have to be many mediators. If there are many gods and many mediators, you begin to have a competition for first place. It is kind of like a presidential election in the United States. There are many candidates...many who want to be president. So they say and do whatever they can say and do to encourage people to vote for them. It is a contest between the candidates to become first place in the minds of the voters.

God is not in a contest. Paul said there is only one God and there is one person to whom we go for connection with Him. That is an important reason why we should pray "In Jesus Name."

Paul goes on to say that this mediator, Jesus, "gave Himself as a ransom for all humans..."

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Not only is Jesus God's Son, and not only is He the one through whom we have direct connection with God, but also He is the one who made all this possible. He gave Himself as a "ransom" for all of us.

We can probably understand this idea of ransom better if we think of it as Jesus taking our place. Jesus said in Mark 10:45 that He had come to the world "to give His life as a ransom for many." We know what a ransom is. Someone is kidnapped, and the kidnappers demand a ransom. Humans are the captives of sin and death. We are doomed. But then along comes Jesus who took our sin and the penalty of eternal death to the cross. There, He paid the full ransom for our sins and we are no longer under penalty of death.

So now we have three understandings of Jesus. He is God's unique Son. He is God who was also human. He is the only mediator, because only God's Son who understands humans can do that. And, finally, He is in God's presence as our mediator. We find here the incarnation, that is God became a human. Second, we find the atonement, that is Jesus died to save us. And, third, we find His ascension, that is He left earth after He had done His work here and went back to God the Father. These three things, three major truths, are the very center of what Christians believe.

Jesus is the true testimony of God's commitment to humanity, and Paul says that he is responsible for telling this Good News to everyone. He said that he had been appointed as a herald. He also was an apostle and teacher. Heralds were common in Ephesus. They went around delivering all kinds of messages, sort of like walking commercials. Paul wanted to be known as a herald for the Gospel...the testimony of God's grace demonstrated in Jesus. He insists that he is telling the truth, as opposed to the false teachers Timothy is in Ephesus to challenge.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Lesson Goal: To give students a challenge to know and testify to the truth of God.

Scripture Memory: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men." | Timothy 2:5

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Student Worksheet—Following Through

The Truth

>Why is God pleased when we pray for others?"

1.

2.

3.

>God really, truly wants _____ to become His child.

>What did Jesus say in the fourteenth chapter of John?

>What two things did Paul say were included in the truth?

1.

2.

>What three things are at the center of Christian belief?

1.

2.

3.

For Memory: “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men.” 1 Timothy 2:5

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.