

## PRAYING FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LOST

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time (1 Timothy 2:1-6 NASB).

- 1 The passage above encourages us as a matter of first things to pray for all men, especially since God desires that they be saved. Pray that your church family and others across the nation will make praying for the salvation of the lost a first priority (1 Timothy 2:1).
- 2 Hand in hand with praying for all men is praying for our government authorities. Ask God to bring salvation to local and national officials so that Christians may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity (1 Timothy 2:2).
- 3 Our engagement in a rhythm of prayer is suggested by Paul's use of four different words describing how we should pray for all men. Pray that your church will have a desire to better understand prayer and will be burdened to grow in entreaties, prayer, petitions, and thanksgivings (1 Timothy 2:1).
- 4 The word *entreaties* in this passage has to do with praying for needs (1 Timothy 2:1). Do you need power for witnessing? Do you know someone who needs to be saved? Pray that God will use you as His witness and will meet this special need in the life of that person.
- 5 The Greek word used in 1 Timothy 2:1 for *prayers* is the most often-used word for prayer in the New Testament. It describes an open, two-way communication God desires to have with us. Pray that we will be alert to His voice as He prompts us to pray for the lost we encounter daily.
- 6 The word for *petitions* describes the process where we reach up to God and out to some other person, putting that person's hand in the hand of God. Please ask God to impress this process of intercession on the hearts of your entire church family (1 Timothy 2:1).
- 7 The word *thanksgivings* is the Greek word from which we get *eucharist*, the Lord's Supper. Please take time today to thank God for His amazing gift of eternal life. Thank Him also for those who have recently been saved through the ministry of your church (1 Timothy 2:1).
- 8 Christ Jesus is the mediator between God and man, the One who gave Himself as a ransom to set us free from the bondage of sin. Pray that the lost in your neighborhood will see their need for Jesus and will believe in Him and in His saving work (1 Timothy 2:5-6).
- 9 In 1 Timothy 1:15, Paul writes, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Pray that the lost living close to you will see that this is a "trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance."
- 10 Pray that the people in your church family will walk with an assurance of their salvation, knowing that he who has the Son has the life (1 John 5:12).
- 11 Since He always lives to make intercession for those who receive the gift of eternal life, Jesus is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him (Hebrews 7:25). Thank God for the eternal nature of Christ's salvation and His ongoing commitment to pray for us as God's children.
- 12 According to 1 Corinthians 9:22-23, Paul was willing to make major adjustments in his life in order to connect with those to whom he presented the gospel. Pray that your church family will have that same attitude in sharing Jesus with those in your community.



- 13** Pray that those in your community who are looking for eternal life through something other than faith in Jesus will quickly discover that there is salvation in no one else (Acts 4:12).
- 14** Some people teach that salvation comes partially or totally through good deeds and religious efforts. Pray that where the gospel is presented in your community, people will understand that just the opposite is true: Salvation is a gracious gift of God received by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- 15** The devil loves to blind the minds of the unbelieving so they can't see the truth about Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:4). Pray that the lost in your community will have their spiritual eyes opened and will respond in faith to the truth of the gospel.
- 16** Pray that the lost around you will not fall under the deception of wickedness but will receive the love of the truth so as to be saved (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
- 17** As your church gathers for worship, pray that the Holy Spirit will place specific lost souls on the hearts of all who are present. Trusting that God is drawing these men and women to Himself, pray that you all will be bold in your witness this coming week (Ephesians 6:19).
- 18** Jesus said that it is hard for the wealthy to enter the kingdom of God (Luke 18:24). Since we live in an affluent culture, pray that the lost in your community will not allow wealth to become a barrier between them and the gospel.
- 19** In the Parable of the Soils, Jesus said the devil can take away the word from hearts so they won't believe and be saved (Luke 8:12). Pray that the devil's influence will be nullified in your community and that the word of salvation will not be taken away from those who hear the gospel.
- 20** There are people all around us who are hungering and thirsting for the true bread of life (John 6:35). Pray that those individuals will find what they are looking for by coming to Jesus and believing in Him.
- 21** When God begins to draw the lost to Himself, He sends the Holy Spirit to convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). Pray that the Holy Spirit will accomplish this work in the minds and hearts of the lost living in your community.
- 22** Men tend to love the darkness of sin rather than the light of Jesus (John 3:19-20). Pray that the veil of sin will be lifted from the spiritual eyes of the lost and that great conviction will fall on them as their sinful deeds are exposed before the righteousness of Christ.
- 23** Jesus said that the word He spoke is that which will judge a man at the last day (John 12:48). Pray that Jesus' teaching will spread throughout your city and that people will respond to the truth they hear.
- 24** Jesus said that the harvest is plentiful and that we should pray for laborers (Luke 10:2). Pray that many from your church family will become laborers in the spiritual harvest, believers sharing the gospel and leading others to Christ.
- 25** When some people hear about the cross of Christ, they see it all as foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18). Pray that this vain thought will be set aside so people can see the death and resurrection of Jesus as the power of God for salvation.
- 26** As God's Spirit is moving on hearts in your community, pray that people will respond with a sorrow that produces repentance and leads to salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10).
- 27** Pray that individuals in your city during the course of this day will confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe with their hearts that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9).
- 28** Before He ascended to glory, Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came on them to witness for Him locally and abroad (Acts 1:8). Pray that church members will be filled with God's Spirit and once more commit to spreading the gospel.
- 29** During Pentecost, Peter preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and in one day saw around three thousand souls added to God's kingdom (Acts 2:41). Pray for God's anointing to rest on pastors and congregations nationwide, and for the lost to be saved in amazing numbers.
- 30** Following Pentecost, the believers in Jerusalem kept feeling a sense of awe as the Lord daily added to their number (Acts 2:43, 47). Pray that once again God will fill churches with large numbers of new converts.