

1 Timothy

I. Introduction

A. **1 Timothy 2:3-6** . . . This (*praying for unbelievers and those in authority*) 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.

B. Pray

II. A review of God's attitudes and actions toward all humanity

A. [3] This (*that is, praying for unbelievers and those in authority*) 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.

1. **Vs 3-4** present us with three important truths.

2. **First**, God is our Savior. Though we regularly speak of Jesus as our Savior – and He is – it is God who created us; it is God who chose to save us from the eternal consequences of our sin; it is God who devised the plan of how to save us; it is God who brought all the necessary pieces together to bring Christ into our world as a child; it is God who spoke to and lead, provided for and protected Jesus during His years on earth; it is God who brought about Christ's crucifixion; it is God who raised Jesus from the dead; it is God who brought Jesus back to heaven; it is God who seated Jesus at His right hand; and it is God our Savior who allows Jesus to act as a mediator between God and us.

3. The **second** important truth is that God our Savior desires **all** men to be saved.

a. Or as **2 Peter 3:9** says, God doesn't want any to perish but for **all** to come to repentance.

b. In other words, God doesn't want to lose out on an eternal relationship of mutual love and trust with any person who has been or will be born into this world. He desires to save every one of us from our sinful choices and foolish ways so that we can be with Him forever.

4. **Third**, God our Savior desires all men to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- a. It is possible you are thinking the “knowledge of the truth” refers to what we must do to receive the gift of eternal life. However, **vs 4** says that God desires two things for all mankind.
 - (1) **First**, that we be saved – which includes receiving the gift of eternal life.
 - (2) And **second**, that we come to the knowledge of the truth. In other words, coming to the knowledge of the truth is a subsequent experience to being saved.
- b. So then, what does it mean to come to the knowledge of the truth? There is no specific definition of this phrase in the Bible. However, we can deduce what it means by examining the other four scriptures where this phrase is found.
 - (1) **2 Timothy 2:24-26** says that repenting of having opposed and resisted the gospel message allows us or enables us to come to the knowledge of the truth, which in turn enables us to come to our senses regarding God’s word, which in turn enables us to escape the lies the devil uses to hold us captive.
 - (a) In other words, the knowledge of the truth enables us to see and understand what is true, to value what God values, and to think rationally and realistically – according to God’s word, so that we can resist the devil, turn away from temptation, and live according to the word of God.
 - (2) **2 Timothy 3:2-7** says that the day is coming when many people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness even though they live as if it has no power to change them. These kinds of people are referred to as always learning yet never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - (a) And why are they unable to come to the knowledge of the truth? Because their beliefs, values, fears, and desires promote a way of thinking and a life-style that blinds them to the truth, or makes the truth seem irrational and too restrictive so that they don’t take the truth seriously. Or their life-style distracts them from thinking about the truth.

(b) In other words, the knowledge of the truth is their enemy because it contradicts their current way of thinking and living. Therefore, living according to the knowledge of the truth changes our beliefs and values, frees us from our irrational fears, and changes our life-style – which is similar to what **2 Timothy 3:2-7** says.

(3) **Titus 1:1-3** confirms that faith is for salvation and the knowledge of the truth is for godly living – and when they are tied together, they give us the hope or confidence of eternal life. Here again, we see that the knowledge of the truth is intended to produce a godly life.

(4) **Hebrews 10:26-31** infers that the knowledge of the truth ought to convince us to stop sinning, or at least make an honest effort not to sin. To knowingly and willfully continue sinning as if God is going to overlook it, is to trampled under foot the Son of God, and to regard as unclean the blood of the covenant by which we are sanctified, and to insult the Spirit of grace. And to unrepentantly continue to do this is to forsake or reject Christ's sacrifice for sins.

(a) In this case, the knowledge of the truth shows us how foolish it is to knowingly and willfully continue sinning. And it shows us how we are treating God, Jesus, and God's grace when we do willfully practice sin.

(b) Though this portion of scripture takes a different perspective than the other three, the essence or outcome of its message is the same. The knowledge of the truth is intended to produce godly living.

c. Therefore, to come to the knowledge of the truth is to see the evils of sin, and to see why, how, and to what extent we can and ought to live a godly life.

B. [5] Here in **vs 5-6**, Paul tells us that there is only “one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, [6] who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.”

1. Because we are ending today's teaching with communion, we will begin with the end of **vs 6**, which says, “the testimony given at the proper time.”

2. These words remind us that Jesus' death and resurrection took place at a God-specified time, or as **vs 6** says, at the **proper time**.

- a. In **Romans 5:6**, Paul says, “For while we were still helpless, at the **right time** Christ died for the ungodly.”
 - b. And in **Galatians 4:4-5**, Paul says, “But when the **fullness of the time** came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, [5] so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”
 - c. There is something about the timing of Jesus coming to earth, living, dying, and rising again that made it the proper time, the right time, and in the fullness of the time. But what is it?
 - (1) Some think it had to do with the advanced civilization of certain people groups surrounding Israel.
 - (2) Some think it was the right time because of the growth of knowledge, or the acceptance and spread of philosophy, reason, and logic.
 - (3) Others think it was Rome’s rule over such a large part of the world and their road system – which made it safer and easier to spread the gospel.
 - (4) Still others think it was the right time because the Greek language had spread far enough to provide a common language for preaching, teaching, writing, and reading God’s word.
 - (5) And there are a few who think God’s patience with Israel come to an end, and it was time to use a means other than the Jews and the nation of Israel to build His kingdom.
 - d. However, in spite of all these thoughtful speculations, the reality is, we don’t know what made the timing of Christ’s birth, death, and resurrection the proper time.
 - (1) And though curiosity might prompt us to seek an answer, we don’t need to know.
 - (2) What we need to know is the knowledge of the truth. And what we need to do is to trust that God knows best and acted accordingly – while focusing our attention on living according to the word of God for the glory of God and the good of all those affected by our choices and behavior.
- C. Returning to **vs 5** and the first part of **vs 6**, we read, “there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, [6] who gave Himself as a ransom for all.”
- 1. As Christians, we believe there is only one God – and that all other gods are merely man-made idols, or man’s imagination in trying to

create a god or find a god-substitute that serves them as they think a god should.

- a. The Bible first proclaims the reality of one God in the OT. For example, in presenting reasons to the Israelites why they should obey God, Moses asked these questions: “Has any people heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire, as you have heard it, and survived? [34] Or has a god tried to go and take for himself a nation from within another nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? [35] To you [these things were] shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; [and] there is no other besides Him” (**Deuteronomy 4:33-35**).
- b. And in **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**, Moses said, “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! [5] You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” *Notice: Because God is one, we are not asked to spread our love around to various gods, but rather to give all our love to the one God.*
- c. Jesus confirmed this truth in **Mark 12:28-30**, when a scribe came and heard [Jesus and some Sadducees debating the resurrection], and recognizing that [Jesus] had answered them well, asked, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” [29] Jesus answered, “The foremost is, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; [30] and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”
- d. Paul explains the one God truth in contrast to idols and so-called gods in **1 Corinthians 8:4-6**, “Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. [5] For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, [6] yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.”
- e. Once again, Christians believe there is only one God. So my purpose is not to convince you of a truth you already hold, but rather to affirm this truth and give you some scripture support for this truth.

2. As Christians, we believe there is only one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.
 - a. A mediator is someone who mediates by getting between two parties who are in conflict or at variance with one another, and upon getting between them, help them resolve their conflict and reconcile their relationship.
 - b. However, Jesus is a unique mediator, because upon getting between God and us, He didn't help God and us work out our differences and resolve our conflict, He became the solution to the conflict. And in becoming the solution, He paid the penalty we owe for the sins we have committed.
 - c. It is in this way that Jesus becomes our peace, and in becoming our peace, He makes peace between God and us by resolving the conflict between us, and in resolving the conflict between us, He makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God – in this life and throughout eternity.
 - d. Paul said it this way in **2 Corinthians 5:19**, “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them....”

III. Communion

- A. We are going to conclude our teaching time with communion, and today I am asking you to ponder two great truths before we eat the bread and drink the cup.
- B. **First**, the one and only God of the universe is not only the God who created us, He is also the God who saves us **(1)** from the eternal consequences of our own sinful, foolish, and self-destructive choices and behavior, **(2)** from the power and practice of sin, and **(3)** from our selfish and irrational ways of thinking, our false beliefs, our foolish fears, and our worldly, vain values. But He not only saves us **from** what kills us, He saves us **to** what gives us life – and it is a life that is abundant.
- C. The **second** great truth is that Jesus Christ is the one and only mediator who is worthy, able, and willing to stand between God and us and become the solution to the conflict that separates us from God. And in becoming the solution, He paid the penalty we owe for the sins we have committed. And in paying the penalty we owe, He became our peace with God. And in becoming our peace with God, He made it possible for us to be reconciled to God – in this life and throughout eternity.