A Church that Prays
I Timothy 2:1-7

Introduction:
Prayer is a priority in the local church.
• Chapter 1 talks about the importance of the Word of God and sound doctrine.
• Chapter 2 talks about the necessity and priority of prayer.

Healthy churches, and healthy Christians, are built on the Word of God and prayer.

I. Who are we to pray for?
I Timothy 2:1-2a

We are to pray for all people and all rulers.

- We are not just to pray for our own needs or the needs of our small circle of friends and church. We are to pray for our community and nation and world.
- We are to pray for our rulers because they are the ones who for good or evil have the most influence on our world.
We are even to pray for rulers who are our enemies. “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.” Proverbs 21:1

We are to pray with all kinds of prayers.
- Requests – We express our needs and desires.
- Prayers – Our prayers are directed to God, because these are things that only God can do or change.
- Intercessions – These are requests made on behalf of others by one who is a family member.
- Thanksgiving – We are to give thanks continually for all that God has done for us.

II. Why are we to pray for all men and all rulers?

I Timothy 2:2b-4

It is good for our world and it is good for the gospel.

God wants us to live in peace.

“That we might live peaceful and quiet lives.”

The reason God wants us to live in peace is so that we can live godly and holy lives. It is not so we can amass more wealth and live at ease.

Secondly, peace and stability are good for the gospel.

“This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”
God's desire for the salvation of all men should give us more than enough reason to pray.

III. What should we pray for?
I Timothy 2:5-7

We should pray for peace and stability in our world. Our prayers can make a difference. When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, prayer was a large part of that event.

We should pray for the salvation of all people. That's why Christ came. "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

There are many ways to pray. We can pray specifically for those that we know. We can pray for our neighborhood and school in a general way.

We can pray for specific missionaries that we know. We can pray for the nations to come to know Christ in a general way.

Prayer is powerful. It can penetrate any heart. It can tear down any stronghold. It can affect any country in the world.
Prayer can change the course of a nation and the course of an individual life, if God so wills.

Conclusion:

1. How much time do you devote to prayer?
2. Who and what are you praying for?
3. If you were to practice what the Scripture teaches here, how would it change the way you pray?