

# Sermon Study Guide



## Praying for the Lost

August 29, 2021 | Ptr. JP Lim

### Reflect

Is there someone whom you have been praying for faithfully? What motivates you to pray for that person?

### Read and Discuss

#### Scripture

1 Timothy 2:1-7

#### Discussion Questions

Many people were being led astray in Ephesus because of false teachings and hostility to Christianity, and so the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy who was the young pastor of the Ephesian church.

1. In the first two verses of 1 Timothy 2, Paul established that praying for the lost must be an essential priority. Praying for another's salvation should be a matter of significance in the believer's prayer life. What do you usually pray for? How often do you remember to pray for people's salvation? Why is praying for them such an important ministry?
2. Paul gives three reasons why you should eagerly pray for the lost:
  - a. **Praying for the lost can allow spiritual progress (v. 2:2b).** What does it say about you when you pray for someone else's salvation and/or spiritual growth? How does it impact you that even those who will not allow you to speak to them about God cannot prevent you from speaking to God about them? Share how prayer changed things for you and allowed you to participate and witness what only God can do.
  - b. **Praying for the lost aligns us with God's pleasure (v. 3-4).** As we see people from God's eyes, we would in turn be compelled to pray and eagerly anticipate witnessing to others in hope of turning them back to God.

Why would a single person turning to God for salvation give so much joy to God and cause celebration in heaven? How does it impact you when someone you know turns to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation? How much of your prayers have you been investing in to intercede for those whom God deeply cares about?

- c. **Praying for the lost advances Christ's pursuit (v. 5-7).** It is only through Jesus Christ that man can be reconciled with God. What does it mean that Christ's death became a ransom to deliver man from the penalty of his sin? Why would the pervasive and popular belief of sincere faith in something else be worthless? If Christ's death is sufficient to save, would its saving affect everyone? Why or why not? How would you share the essence of the gospel to someone else?

### Respond

**In Walk:** Ask God to burden your heart and captivate your mind with people He has placed in your life whom you could reach out to by praying for them. Prayers make a difference. God delights when our prayers resonate with His heart. What divine intervention can you ask God for so that He can use you to introduce to others the Only Way to salvation? Name one or two particular people whose salvation you can start praying for.

**In Prayer:** Heavenly Father, there are just too many people I know who do not know you as their Savior. Lord, please give me the conviction that it is my responsibility, as a Christian, to reach out to them and to share to them the gospel. May I start praying for them consistently and trust You to use me or someone else to lead them to You. Thank You that this is something I can do as the Holy Spirit enables me and gives me compassion for those who do not know You yet. In Jesus' Name. Amen.