



## CHEERFUL GODLINESS "The Priority of Godliness" 1 Timothy 2:1-7

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On September 11, 2001, the world changed, but many things stayed the same. We were suddenly, cruelly, and viciously confronted with old realities in a fresh light. Realities such as: this is a dangerous world, evil is present with us, death is inevitable, life is fragile, people have spiritual instincts, and God is still God. But what do we do with these insights now seen in sharper focus? We must carry on and live as we ought.

### I. We Must See Prayer As a Priority: "First of All."

- A. Requests: Gk. "deesis"—desires brought forth by a deep sense of need.
- B. Prayers: Gk. "proseuche"—an approach to God who alone can answer.
- C. Intercession: Gk. "enteuxis"—enter into intimate conversation with a king.
- D. Thanksgiving: Gk. "eucharistia"—bring needs as a right; bring thanksgiving as a duty.

### II. We Must Examine Our Views of Humanity: "Everyone."

- A. God wants all people to be saved. v. 4
- B. Christ gave Himself as a ransom for all people. v. 6
- C. Prayer should know no boundaries.
  - 1. Because God's concerns are universal, ours should be too.
  - 2. Special emphasis should be placed on prayer for those in authority.

### III. We Must Recognize the Place of Authority: "All Those in Authority."

- A. Divine authority is the ultimate authority. Romans 13:1a
- B. Governmental authority is divinely delegated authority. Romans 13:1b
- C. Responses to governmental authority have spiritual connotations. Romans 13:2
- D. Governmental authority is designed to reward good and punish evil. Romans 13:3-4
- E. Christians must have a clear conscience about their response to authority. Romans 13:5

### IV. We Must Place a Premium on Spirituality: "Godliness and Holiness."

- A. Modern people greatly prize their freedoms.
  - 1. Generally this means license to do what they want to do.
  - 2. Whereas true freedom enables people to do what they ought to do.
- B. We pray for a "quiet and peaceful" environment.
  - 1. In order that we might practice "godliness."
    - a. "This is good and pleases God..."
    - b. "Godliness" is an attitude of reverence for God.
    - c. Which acts in ways that please Him.
  - 2. So that we might be characterized by "holiness."
    - a. "Holiness" (Gk. "Semnotes") never forgets the holiness of God...
    - b. Or overlooks the dignity of mankind.

**Points to Ponder:** Wicked men have done dastardly deeds. They must not be allowed to divert us from our objectives or deter us from our tasks. But are we clear what our objectives and tasks should be?