

SOUND WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Know how to conduct oneself in the public worship of God.

Suggestion: This lesson will call attention to important truths in this week's lesson. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: Christians go to church to worship God. There are many ways to worship God. They can worship Him by singing hymns and spiritual songs, by reading the Scriptures, by giving tithes and offerings, by hearing a message from the Bible, but Paul told Timothy that the most important way to worship God was to spend time in praying to Him. "I exhort therefore, that first all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men" (2 Timothy 2:1).

How important is prayer in the public worship of God? 5:1-3

Paul gave prayer first place in public worship. It could include supplications for special needs of people, prayers to exalt and admire God, intercessions to seek God's favor on behalf of others and to thank God for His gifts of love in saving us and providing our needs. We should pray for those in authority over us and for the salvation of all people. This pleases God.

Why should believers pray for the salvation of all people? 2:4; Ezk 33:11; Jn 3:16; 2 Pet 3:9

God desires all people be saved, no one should perish. As His ambassadors, we are to beg people on His behalf to be reconciled to Him (2 Cor 5:20). So it pleases God when we ask Him to save sinners.

How has God prepared for the salvation of all people? 2:5-7

God had His Son become a man to mediate between Him and all people. He had His Son pay the ransom price for the sins of all people. He chose Paul to bring this good news to the Gentile people. Not all people will receive God's gift of salvation, but God has done His part in saving them.

Who should lead the people in the public prayer? 2:8

There are three conditions for this privilege. All men can pray (but only men); must lift up holy hands (have a holy life before God); be without wrath and doubting (without hostility toward other believers).

How should women conduct themselves in the public worship service? 2:9-12

Women should not draw undue attention to themselves by their clothing or physical look, but be modest in their appearance. They should be quiet and learn in silence being respectful to the men. They should not teach men, nor usurp authority over them.

How did God direct Paul to support this restraint on women? 2:13-14

God created man first and then the woman (Eve was created to be Adam's helper). Eve was deceived (by Satan) and transgressed against God's command, but Adam was not deceived when he sinned. So God guided Paul to state that men should lead the women. To deny this rule is to deny God's authority.

How are women saved in childbirth? 2:15

The context of this verse is the salvation of believers from the doctrine of false teachers. Paul exhorted Timothy to pay careful attention to the doctrine so that he will save himself and those that hear him (4:16). So being saved in childbearing is not referring to the salvation of one's soul, but to the salvation of one's testimony. It speaks of being saved from the doctrine of false teachers that prey upon gullible women (2 Tim 3:6). A married woman does well if she accepts her God-given role in bearing children and teaching them God's word as Timothy's mother and grandmother did for him (2 Tim 1:5; 3:14-15). Also, she must resist the temptation to do the work God gave to her husband in the church. In the home she must continue in faith, love and holiness with sobriety (sound judgment) to save her testimony and bless her family. Her husband's life will be on display in the church; her life will be on display in the home. (Other views are given in the Study Notes.)