




A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. *—Psalm 145:11*
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. *—Joshua 22:5*

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Why do you think people say **about prayer**, "If God is sovereign, why do it?" but **not** about things such as brushing our teeth, studying for an exam, or putting gas in the car? What's the difference?
- What are some implications of 1 Timothy 2:5-6 for you and for your Muslim/Hindu/atheist/etc. friends?
- Who taught your children to ask you for things? How does this truth relate to you and God?
- What should we conclude from the fact that the Bible clearly teaches **both** predestination and prayer? [Acts 13:48; Romans 8:28-30; 9:11-13; 11:7; Ephesians 1:4-6; Revelation 13:7-9; cf. Romans 10:1]

What does a **proud** person do when he's **not smart enough** to figure out how apparently incompatible things work together? What does a **humble** person do in that situation? What do **you** do?

- What were the three reasons Pastor Doug gave for why worship must take precedence over evangelism?

The dictionary defines worship as the act of "*honoring with extravagant love and extreme submission*". **Why** do you think God **deserves** our extravagant love and extreme submission?

Why would it be wrong **not** to give it to him? Do you honor God in that way?

Why would be wrong to give such honor to anyone or anything else? Do you?

Application-Challenge

- Form the habit of God-honoring prayer, associating it with another regular activity in your life.
- Set no limits on prayer. Don't try to resist temptation in any area without God.
- Use 1 Timothy 2:1-7 as a prayer guide. Pray for government officials, for freedom to flourish, and for the salvation of family, friends, co-workers and for those around the world.

Sermon Summary

In 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Paul turns his attention from the problem of false teachers to guidelines for God-honoring public worship. According to Paul, we each have a role to fill in God's household, and each role has responsibilities. Let's look at some of them. One of our chief responsibilities as Christians is to pray (v. 1). God has chosen to bring about his sovereign purposes in the world through the prayers of the church. Things come to pass in this world because we pray that would not if we failed to pray. Prayer, then, is both a privilege and a necessity. Paul is telling Timothy—and us—that the progress of the gospel in the world is dependent upon the prayers of God's people. God's plan, and therefore our duty, as Christians extends to all men. Because God's saving desire and Christ's death concern everyone, our prayers and proclamation of the gospel must concern everyone.

Paul calls upon Timothy and the church in Ephesus to employ every dimension of prayer on behalf of all people, whether they are saved or unsaved, believing or unbelieving (v. 2). The first candidates for the church's prayers are political leaders, many of whom aren't Christians and could care less about God. All the more reason that they need our prayers. At TCC, we should pray against the growing culture of intolerance toward Christianity. We should pray against the prevailing climate of political correctness, and the tendency for people to be offended by anything that challenges their values or worldview. You can imagine the anger and bitterness that might grow in your heart toward leaders who were persecuting you; yet Paul tells us to pray for them. Only a praying church will be equipped to live lives of godliness and dignity amid persecution.

Next, Paul calls on us to pray for people's salvation (vv. 3-4). We need to pray for the salvation of those who have not yet come to know God in a personal way through Jesus Christ...including our leaders. Now we know that all men will not be saved, but the problem isn't on God's side, it is on ours. People perish because they have sinned against God and either haven't heard the gospel; or, hearing it, have chosen to reject it. God gives people the freedom to choose to accept or reject Christ. Sadly, many choose to reject Him. But because God loves and desires the salvation of all men, we should pray for the salvation of all men.

When you pray for your lost friends, family members, co-workers, and political leaders around the world, you can do so knowing that God desires their salvation. One thing is certain; all men need God's salvation—they need to come to the "knowledge of the truth," as Paul says in verse 4. This mention of divine truth prompts Paul to restate the gospel message, only now, he restates it in the context of his urging prayer (vv. 5-6). There is only one God, and there is only one way to Him, and it is through his Son Jesus Christ. There is only one acceptable mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave his life as a ransom for all (John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:6).

The word ransom in Greek is "antilutron." It is made up of the prefix "anti" (in the place of) and "lutron," the word used for the ransom of a slave or prisoner. Paul applies this term to Jesus. He died in our place. Jesus' death was the ransom payment God required to free us from sin's guilt and bondage. But it is not enough to just pray. People cannot respond to a Savior if they know nothing about. Therefore, in addition to praying, we must proclaim the gospel message to all men. Paul concludes his discourse on the critical importance of prayer in verse 8. As we seek to tell others about Christ in a God-defying world, we must do so prayerfully and dependently. We are to pray for peace and we are to be peacemakers ourselves. It is in this way that we make our greatest impact.



Prayer is not just a privilege; it is a responsibility. It is something that all believers can and should do. If we are to reach the world for Christ, we must pray, as well as share our faith. Both are necessary.

30 WAYS TO PRAY FOR PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY

1. That they be God-fearing and recognize that they are accountable to Him for each decision and act. (*Proverbs 9:10*)
2. That they be granted wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. (*James 1:5*)
3. That they be presented with the gospel and a loving Christian witness. (*Romans 10:14*)
4. That, if unsaved, they be drawn to a saving encounter with Christ; if born-again, that they be strengthened and encouraged in their faith. (*1 Timothy 2:4, Ephesians 1:17-23*)
5. That they recognize their own inadequacy and pray and seek the will of God. (*Proverbs 3:5-8, Luke 11:9-13*)
6. That they be convicted of sin, transgression, and iniquity. (*Psalms 51:17, John 8:9*)
7. That they heed their conscience, confess their sins and repent. (*Proverbs 28:13, James 4:8*)
8. That they read the Bible and attend prayer meetings and Bible studies. (*Psalms 119:11, Colossians 3:2*)
9. That they value and regard the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Christ. (*Psalms 19:7-11, John 8:31-32*)
10. That they respect and honor their own parents if living. (*Ephesians 6:2-3*)
11. That they respect authority and practice accountability. (*Romans 13:1-7*)
12. That they be given godly counsel and God-fearing advisors. (*Proverbs 24:6*)
13. That they be honest and faithful to spouses and children. (*Malachi 2:15-16*)

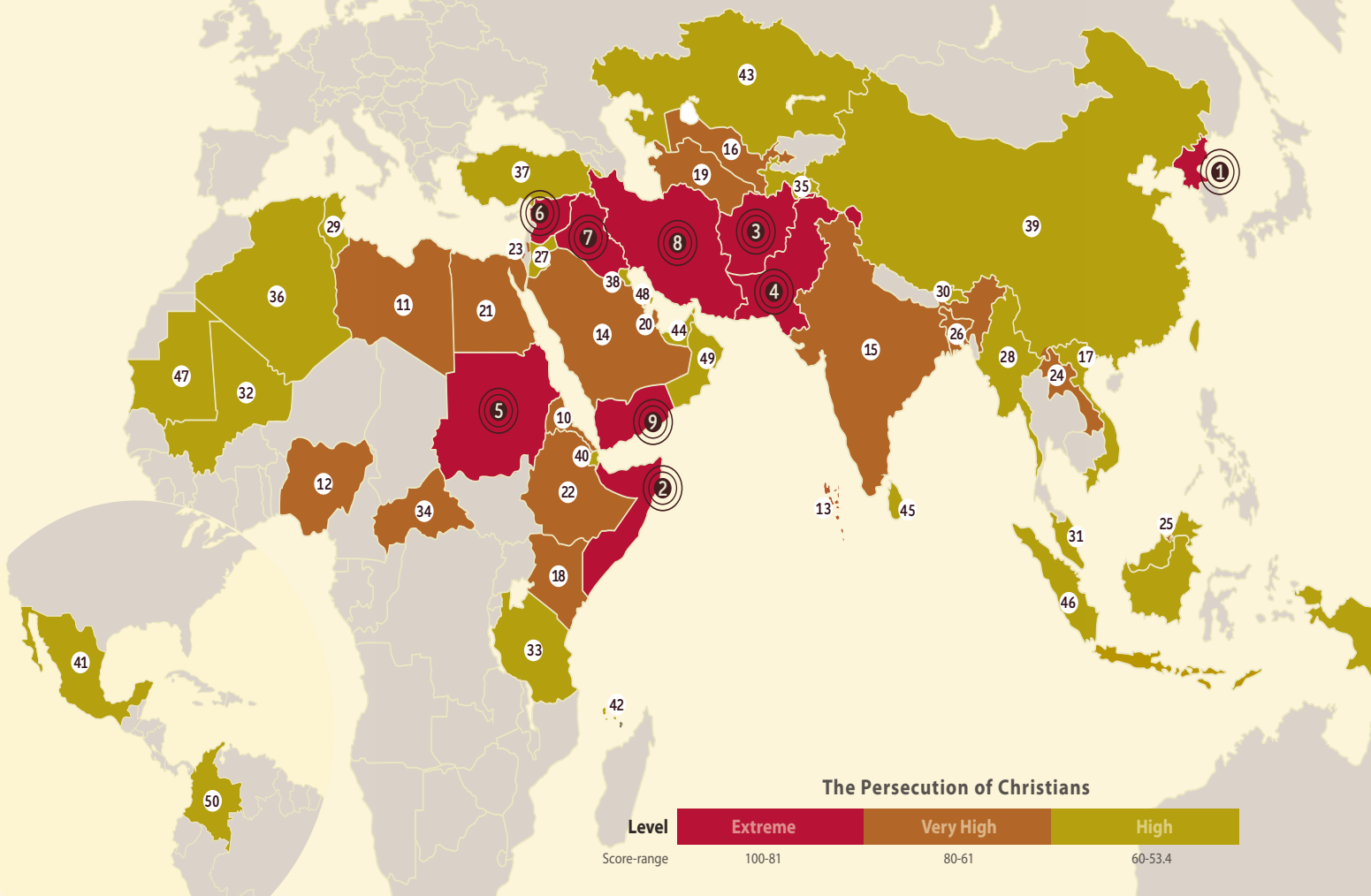
14. That they be practicing members of local congregations. (*Hebrews 10:25*)
15. That they desire purity and avoid debauchery, pornography, perversion and drunkenness. (*1 Corinthians 6:9-20, Titus 2:12*)
16. That they be timely, reliable and dependable. (*Matthew 21:28-31*)
17. That they be honest in financial, tax and ethical matters. (*1 Corinthians 6:10, 1 Timothy 6:6-10*)
18. That they seek pastoral care and counsel when needed. (*Hebrews 13:7*)
19. That they seek out and nurture godly friendships. (*Psalms 1:1-3*)
20. That they have thankful and teachable spirits. (*Romans 12:1*)
21. That they be generous and have compassionate hearts for the poor and needy. (*Psalms 112:9, Luke 10:33-37*)
22. That they redeem their time and know priorities. (*Ephesians 5:15-17*)
23. That they desire honesty, integrity, and loyalty. (*Psalms 26, Proverbs 11:3*)
24. That they have courage to resist manipulation, pressure and the fear of man. (*Proverbs 29:25, 2 Timothy 1:7*)
25. That they be shielded from occultism, New Age cults, false religions, and secret societies. (*Isaiah 1:29, 2:6*)
26. That they be presented with biblical worldviews and principles. (*Ephesians 3:10*)
27. That they endeavor to restore the sanctity of life, families, divine order and morality in our nation. (*Ephesians 5:22-6:4*)
28. That they would work to reverse the trends of humanism in our nation. (*1 Chronicles 12:32, Isaiah 59:19*)
29. That they desire humility and meekness and be willing to serve and cooperate. (*John 13:14, Titus 3:1-2*)
30. That they be prepared to give an account to Almighty God. (*Hebrews 9:27*)

SCORE

COUNTRY	SCORE
1. North Korea	92
2. Somalia	91
3. Afghanistan	89
4. Pakistan	88
5. Sudan	87
6. Syria	86
7. Iraq	86
8. Iran	85
9. Yemen	85
10. Eritrea	82
11. Libya	78
12. Nigeria	78
13. Maldives	76
14. Saudi Arabia	76
15. India	73
16. Uzbekistan	71
17. Vietnam	71
18. Kenya	68
19. Turkmenistan	66
20. Qatar	65
21. Egypt	64
22. Ethiopia	64
23. Palestinian Terr.	64
24. Laos	64
25. Brunei	64
26. Bangladesh	63
27. Jordan	63
28. Myanmar	62
29. Tunisia	61
30. Bhutan	61
31. Malaysia	60
32. Mali	59
33. Tanzania	59
34. Cent. Afr. Rep.	58
35. Tajikistan	58
36. Algeria	58
37. Turkey	57
38. Kuwait	57
39. China	57
40. Djibouti	57
41. Mexico	57
42. Comoros	56
43. Kazakhstan	56
44. UAE	55
45. Sri Lanka	55
46. Indonesia	55
47. Mauritania	55
48. Bahrain	54
49. Oman	53
50. Colombia	53

OpenDoors World Watch List 2017

The World Watch List 2017 uses data from Open Doors field workers and independent experts to track the deep structures of Christian persecution. It measures the degree of freedom a Christian has to live out their faith in five spheres of life – private, family, community, national and church – plus a sixth sphere measuring the degree of violence. The data is translated into points, and countries are ranked accordingly, with the top 50 countries appearing on the list. The list is independently audited by the International Institute of Religious Freedom.



The Persecution of Christians

Level	Score-range
Extreme	100-81
Very High	80-61
High	60-53.4