**Sermon Notes – Sunday 19th September ‘Intimacy with God’**

**Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8**

The word, **‘All’** is a feature of this passage. See how many times ‘All’ (or ‘everyone’) occurs. Again and again the New Testament reinforces that the gospel is universal in reach. God’s love is for **all.** See for example 2 Corinthians 5:18,19, John 3:16, John 12:32

Although verse 4 states that God our Saviour ‘wants **all** people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth’, do we ourselves set certain expectations of what qualifies someone to be welcomed into God’s kingdom?

* Who or what category of people might we feel fall short of qualifying?
* What does God our Saviour save us from?

It is this conviction of the universality of the gospel that in ages past (and today) compelled individuals to leave the comfort of home and risk their lives in the great missionary enterprise.

* Can you share the names of those made famous by their commitment and sacrifice?
* To what extent are we ‘compelled’ by the gospel? Do people today know they are ‘perishing’ and in need of ‘saving’ (John 3:16)?

In the light of this, Paul begins this section of his letter with another ‘All’ – ‘First of all’.

* What does that say about the place of prayer in our lives individually? Corporately? In worship?

Paul uses 4 words to describe prayer content.

* What are the differences between; Requests, Prayers, Intercessions, Thanksgivings?
* Why does Paul place such an important emphasis on the place of prayer in personal and corporate life?

Prayer is the invisible foundation which supports all the other church activities. Without a proper prayer life, people are distant from God and destined to rely on their own strength and accomplishments. Jesus said, ‘Apart from me you can do nothing’.

* If prayer is so important and fundamental to our relationship with God, why are church prayer meetings so poorly attended?
* What does it look like if a person is leading a peaceful and quiet life (v2)?
* What might the opposite look like?

**Spend some time soaking in God’s presence, confessing where we fall short and asking the Spirit to awaken within us a longing for a deeper experience of God’s presence in prayer.**

Romans 8:26 – Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Matthew 6:7 – And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Ephesians 6:18 – Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

Colossians 4:2 – Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.