

These questions are for the June 28, 2026, message, “250 years: a prayer.” Please read the sermon passage (1 Timothy 2:1-4) out loud.

### **Passage Outline**

Believers bless their nation when we learn . . .

1. The priority of praying (1a).
  - a) With political opposition (like Nero), Timothy is instructed to . . .
    - i. Make prayer the church’s top priority.
    - ii. See the impact that the church has on the nation (2 Chron 7:14).
  - b) Key emphases: “supplications,” “prayers,” “intercessions,” and “thanksgivings.”
2. The subject of prayers (1b-2a).
  - a) We are called to pray for all people, which emphasizes
    - i. All races, to the exclusion of none.
    - ii. People outside the church—pray for their conversion.
  - b) Instructed to pray for governing officials of all kinds (pray for their conversion).
3. The benefit of praying (2b).
  - a) The implication is not that we become politically powerful or in the majority.
  - b) We pray that we would live out God’s kingdom within our earthly country:
    - i. “peaceful life” indicates “freedom from outside disturbances.”
    - ii. “quiet life” indicates “freedom from inside disturbances” (Titus 3:1-3).

### **Life Group Discussion Questions**

1. Based on #1, above: If there is something of higher priority in our lives than prayer, it indicates that there is something we trust more than God. How have you seen God answer prayer? How is a “pray first” approach growing in your life?
2. Based on #1, above: Paul outlines four unique aspects to prayer. 1) supplications, “that God would supply something we lack”; 2) prayers, “asking God to do what only He can do”; 3) intercessions, “feeling the weight of a situation with our friend”; and 4) thanksgivings, “intentionally recognizing and honoring the Giver.” How do these categories help you organize your prayer life? How do they fuel your prayer life?
3. Based on #2, above: We are to pray for “all people,” and pray for elected officials in a special way, asking that the Lord would convert their souls (check out verses 3-4). How should you (or “we”) tweak the way we pray for “all people”?
4. Based on #3, above: Praying for our governing officials does not increase the popularity of our own political opinions, it converts the souls of some of our leaders. The benefit, then, is not “more political clout,” but that we live “peaceful” and “quiet” lives. We live God’s kingdom in the midst of this earthly kingdom. We acknowledge our loyalty to God above and beyond any loyalty to an earthly king. How are you doing with this?