

SERMON NOTES Sunday 21 September

sunnysidechurch

First of all, pray!

Bible passages: Psalm 113 and 1 Timothy 2.1-7

Introduction

- Can feel overwhelmed by news and cultural commentary around us
- Readings remind us first to pray so we have the perspective and strength to respond in godly ways

First of all prayer

- 1 Timothy 2.1: Petitions (pleadings); prayer (recognising God's power and authority); intercession (focussing on others); thanksgiving (focussing on God)
- Psalm 113: a prayer which reminds us of who God is and his love for all his people

All people – everyone

- We are encouraged to think in terms of them and us cf. Miroslav Volf's argument that Christians are called to embrace 'them' in the way God has embraced us
- Jesus gave himself as a ransom for **all** people (1 Tim 2.6)

Hope we have

- Hope is more powerful than fear
- Hope we have is rooted in love and is message for all

Conclusion

Peaceful and quiet lives not ones where nothing happens but where our focus is on Jesus so we can experience his peace and share his love through the Holy Spirit at work in us

Some questions to discuss

1. How do you feel when you hear the news or think about the state of the world?
2. Read 1 Timothy 2.1-7. What do you notice?
3. Paul urges Timothy (and us) to make petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving (v1). How does his use of these four ideas deepen your understanding of what he is urging us to do?
4. Read Psalm 113. How might this help you to follow Paul's instruction?
5. How might prayer help us to embrace rather than exclude?
6. Do you agree that hope is more powerful than fear? If so, why?
7. How might you share God's message of hope this week?
8. Is there one thing that you are taking away from these passages? Is there something you need to do in response? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something God wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. (1 Tim 2.5-6a)

Why not spend some time thanking God for the hope we have in Jesus and praying that we might share that hope with others

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