

Governments & Kingdoms



GROWTH GUIDE NOVEMBER 10, 2024

25th Sunday after Pentecost

*Scripture: I Timothy 2:1-4 &
John 18:33-37*

I. SCRIPTURE: I TIMOTHY 2:1-4

AUTHOR

I Timothy was written by Paul. The apostle Paul had been a Pharisee who knew the Bible well, was well educated, hated the Christian faith and persecuted Christians. After his conversion on the road to Damascus, his life was changed and he began to preach the gospel throughout the Roman Empire on three missionary journeys.

CONTEXT

Paul wrote this personal letter in A.D 64 before his final imprisonment in Rome, to Timothy, his "son" in the faith who was a pastor of the church at Ephesus. He wrote to encourage this young pastor who faced many challenges. In this scripture passage he gives instructions about worship and the importance of prayer.

II. SCRIPTURE: JOHN 18:33-37

AUTHOR

The gospel of John was written by John, a fisherman, who along with his brother, James, became disciples of Jesus and were part of the original 12. John wrote his gospel around AD 85-90 to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life.

CONTEXT

Jesus is on trial, has had hearings before the Jewish authorities, and been condemned to death by the religious leaders. Only the Roman government can grant the death penalty, so Jesus is tried before Pilate, the Roman Governor.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read I Timothy 2:1-4. Who does Paul urge Timothy to pray for? What 3 things does Paul tell Timothy to do in regards to prayer?
2. Do you think our prayers can change the world? Why or why not? Does this challenge you in your prayer life?
3. God loves all people and his plan of salvation is available to all people. Read John 3:16 and Psalm 139:13-18 to remind you of God's love for us all.
4. Read James 5:16. How is the prayer of a righteous person described?
5. Read I Timothy 2:2. Do you pray for those in authority? If not, how might it be to pray for government leaders and others in authority? Does the idea of praying for all people challenge you here?
6. Read what God wants in I Timothy 2:4. How would it be to pray for those with different political views from yours?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read John 18:33-37. How would you describe the interactions between Jesus and Pilate?
2. How does Jesus describe his kingdom? Was Pilate threatened by Jesus?
3. What is Jesus' answer to the question, "So You are a king"? What did Jesus say his purpose was? Who do we have ultimate allegiance to?