

Title: A man of Prayer

Text: I Timothy 2:1-15

Take your Bibles, please and turn to I Timothy chapter 2. I Timothy chapter 2. Here we find one of the most controversial passages in the Bible. As well as one of the most serious passages as it relates to the male leadership. Our subject on this Father's Day: A MAN OF PRAYER.

It seems to me that the most critical issue in male leadership in the family is the commitment of the husband to prayer. There is nothing else more important than that. There is nothing more important that for a little child to see his father on his knees in prayer.

Our sense of dependence on God in exercising our spiritual leadership is one of the most important roles we have. One of the greatest concerns I have noticed, now in some 33 years of ministry among wives and mothers is the spiritual leadership of their husbands. That is one of the greatest concerns they have. One of the greatest burdens...one of the greatest griefs. And so I want to talk about spiritual leadership on the part of men, today, from I Timothy chapter 2. Please follow along in your Bibles, as I read.

(Read I Timothy 2:1-15)

(Prayer)

Father, we thank you, so much, for your Word. We have just a great need to hear from you. We hear from so many others. And we need to know what you think. What you say. God, I pray, that you will touch, especially, the men of the audience in a strong way about the need of prayer. We need to be men of prayer. And I pray that you would help us to see that ..that prayer and that leadership has to be real. It cannot to false or make believe. But it must be real. It must come from our hearts.

Thank you Lord. In Jesus name.....Amen

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This is one of those passages where most preachers break it down into many parts. And there is a reason for that. It is done because there are many issues, here in these verses.

There are a lot of issues...concerning women's dress and about men and about submission and about whether women can teach or not. And about Adam and Eve as it relates to salvation. There are a lot of issues. And what happens is you focus on a certain issue and you miss the over all context. And I want to talk to you this morrowing about the over all context which indeed is the most important thing about this passage.

Paul wrote to Timothy who was Pastor of a church in Ephesus. He worte about how a church should be organized and how they should be run. And one of the major issues he dealt with is found here in chapter 2.

Those of you who are looking at your Bibles will noticed that the passage has two paragraphes. So, there are two points in this message from chapter 2. The first 7 verses is one paragraph. Then the second paragraph begins at Vs 8.

Notice Vs 8 begins with the word "therefore." Therefore, in the light of what I said in the first 7 verses, now I will make an application. So, the second half of chapter 2, verses 8 thru 15 is discribing what kind of spiritual leadership was spoken about in the first 7 verses.

() In the first 7 verses you have the need for spiritual leadership in the life of men. (2) In Verses 8 to 15 you have the nature of that leadership discribed. So, I want you to see the over all context.

One of the most important things that a church can even think about doing is PRAYING...

And it is interesting that when Paul gave instruction to Timothy about how to manage a church, he told him---"YOU MUST HAVE MEN PRAY". If you are going to have a church of Jesus Christ, men must pray...

(1) So, as we look at this need for spiritual leadership in the life of men, I want you to see three things in these first 7 verses.

(1)In Verse 1 Paul says "First of all, then I urge." The first thing I notice is that spiritual leadership must be a priority in a man's life.

When Paul says to Timohty "First of all" he is not talk about "first" in a series of things that he is going to talk about. He has already talked about some things. There will be more. But that is not the point/

It is above everything else. When Paul talks about what is important, prayer goes to the top of the list. First of all, above anything else PRAYER.

Now, connecting that with Vs 8, he wants men to do the praying. So the first and most important prority in a man's life is what? It is prayer. That is what the Bible says. It must be a prority.

(2) Number two: I notice that this spiritual leadership centers in PRAYER AND PRAISE. Paul says in Vs 1 "that entreaties or sublications" -- this is an expression of urgent need. A man who knows he needs help. Not a man who thinks he can handle things. But a man who knows he needs to call upon God. "Sublications and prayers"...Prayers is a word for worship. To pray towards God...to give thanks toward God.

And then it says "petitions". This means to fall into something or someone. The idea is intimacy..or one on one,.

By the this word is used only one other time. And it is in this book. Look at chaper 4 verses 3 to 5.

If a man really understands his spiritual leadership. It is a prority in his life. And it also centers in PRAYER AND PRAISE.

Sublications---he senses his need of the Lord. Prayer---he constantly worships God. And it involves "petitions". What is petitons?

In I Timothy 4:3 it tells us what will happen in latter times. That demons will be influential in peoples lives causing them to teach false doctrim One would be to stay away from marriage. Now, if it is God's will for you to be single, that is one thing. But verse 3 says "forbidding marriage."

So, a single life is not what God is talking about. "Forbidding to marry and advocate abstaining from foods." That some how abstaing from food would make you more spiritual before God. That is not from God. That is from the devil.

But notice what it says after the word "foods".."which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth."

"For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified (that means, set apart, or we might say: made special) it is set apart or made special by the word of God."

Why is the food that God created made special when I give thanks or show gratitude? Because, according to the Word of God, the Word of God makes it special and you are expressing thanks to the God who made it possible for you to have the food. And that deals with your heart.

Now, it is set apart not only by the Word of God as to what the Word of God says about food, but, also, by the very act of PRAYER. And that word "prayer" at the end of verse 5 is the same word "petitions" in chapter 2 verse 1. And that word only appears in those two verses in the Bible.

So, what is he talking about? A one on one relationship where you sense that you are grateful to God for even a sandwich that you eat.

By the way. What I think is one of the serious problems of male leadership in our society is our refusal to pray, whether in public or private, for our meals. I am encouraging every man here, who has any sensitivity to God and his Word, that you make a commitment today..a practical application of this message, to make a commitment in your heart, whether in public or in private, whether by yourself or with a group of people, no matter how official it is or non-official, that you will always offer a prayer of thanksgiving for your food.....AMEN?

We need that, men, more than anything. I have observed in public places it often opens the door for a religious conversation. Just because you pray. I see many christian people who don't pray at their meals...SAD...

Listen, dear friends, we need to pray for our food. We need to thank God for our food. We need to be men of prayer.

() O.k. back to chapter 2 verse 1, again. It also says "thanksgiving." If you are a man of prayer, you know that that centers in PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO GOD.

And what I see in our monch world is a lot of complying. You know, "Hay! how is your day going?" "OH, Man, you wouldn't believe what has happned

I mean it is like a game we play. "Hay! you are talking tough here. I mean I have had a difficult week."

And I find that guys comply about everything. We need to be men of thanksgiving. We need to give thanks. "God! I praise you that I lost my job. Praise God. Thank you Lord that that guy hit me right in that intersection. That was wonderful. And that flat on the freeway during the rush hour. Terrific. I thank you, Lord."

Hay, there are a lot of things in category "BAD". But we need to smell the roses and look at the trees and thank God for his wonderful blessings. What a wonderful thing it would be in a marriage and family to have a father and a husband who wasn't complying all the time. A father who wasn't negative but positive. Who was giving thanks for all things. THANK YOU LORD...MAN, YOU HAVE BEEN SO GOOD TO US.

Children need to be raised in a home where Dad prays. And Dad gives thanks to God, constantly in his life. We need that kind of gratitude. (3) The third thing that I notice, ^{a man's spiritual leadership} ~~prayer~~ is not only to be a priority, and to center in prayer and praise, but a man's spiritual leadership has a special purpose. It says in Vs 2 that "we may lead a tranquil and quiet ~~life~~ life in all godliness and dignity." It says that "this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved."

So, not only is the stability of society involved in a man praying,.. You get a bunch of men together really praying and it will have an effect on society. But it also allows the freedom of the Gospel for men to be saved. That is the natural application of these verses. WE NEED TO PRAY.

() Now, having said that let's focus our attention on verses 8 to 15. And the general point is express the need for spiritual leadership for prayer in the churches. That is what Paul is telling Timothy. You make sure that all men know that they are to pray. NOW, COMES THE PUNCH LINE, AS HE DISCRIBES THAT LEADAERSHIP, THE NATURE OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP,.. And I want to give you six words that you can take home today that explain this passage for you as it relates to a man's leadership in Prayer.

(1) First of all, vs 8 says "Therefore ' I want". ^{Not}, I wish...Not I hope you will...

But, "I want". It is a word of instruction. I am instructing you in the light of the need of prayer that "men in every place should pray."

Before, I tell you what these six words are, I want to discuss a major problem in this passage. A problem that is affecting all society. There are those groups who are trying to make all songs and all passages in the Bible neuter. In our hymn books that want songs like "GOD OF OUR FATHERS, AND ANYTHING THAT MENTIONS MALE CHANGED TO A NEUTER FORM. Such as "GOD OF OUR PERSONS." Or, "the person of God.

I just want you to know..God is our Father. I am sorry about that ladies. But he is.

You might be happy to know that he acts like a mother. But, any way, the whole point is, which is kind of ridiculous, and getting out of hand, is that God is our Father.

NOW, WHAT IS THE PROBLEM HERE? Let me express it....Now, I don't have anybody else to talk to, so if you don't mind, I am just going to talk to you about it, O.K...

Now, listen, the church of Jesus Christ, throughout history, has made one great mistake on this issue. And it comes out off this passage. There are actually three passages that are part of the controversy. I Corinthians 14; I Corinthians 11; and I Timothy 2.

Now, in the passage it says that women are to be submissive to men. That is what it says. We have to discuss it, but that is what it says.

Vs 11 says "Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. And Vs 12.."But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet."

I Corinthians 14 says that if a woman wants to learn anything let them ask their husbands at home.

You say, "He doesn't know anything.".....Ask him anyway...

O.K. let's come to the problem. In church history, unfortunately they taught that all women are to be submissive to all men.

Now, let me share with you how that applies. One, they cannot sit on any Board.....NO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.

Two, they cannot teach adults. Only children. And churches who believe this compromise a little by saying they can teach Adult women. But certainly not men. Today, it has become full blown: CAN THEY BE PASTOR'S?

Interesting question. Should we ordain WOMEN? And there are a lot of women who cry out: We are tired of male domination. We want the leadership of the church.

In our American Baptist Denomination, it is said that by the turn of the century 1/2 of all the preachers will be women.

So, we have a problem in society. Now, let me try and explain something I do not agree with church history. I do not believe that the Bible teaches that all women are to be submissive to all men. We have been wrong on that. We need to admit that we have been wrong.

WHY AM I SAYING THIS: The Bible teaches only one thing: that a wife is to be submissive to her own husband. NO BODY ELSE'S HUSBAND.

So, you see when you try to stretch it to mean ALL WOMEN TO ALL MEN, you get yourself into trouble.

I believe there are only two things, if you want to be honest with the Bible, there are only two things that restrict women in the ministry of the church.

(1) One, they cannot be an elder or a Bishop. You say..WHY?..Because the Bible says that an elder or a bishop needs to be a husband and father. And it is tough for a woman to do that. That is what it says.

You say, Why would God do that? Hay! if I were you I would be thankful for that. Question who God is going to sap when things go wrong...He is going to sap the men, not the women. The women are protected because they don't bear the responsibility..WHY does God have that in the church? Because he wants the church to be like a family. Who is responsible in a family? The father. I don't care what the Dad is trying to exite out of this. The Father is responsible. And God holds him accountable.....AMEN, LADIES?

Hay listen...a little AMEN...HALLELJAH...RIGHT ON...WOULD HELP

But even if you don't give it, it is the truth

Now, we come back to this issue and we see how society has missed up. So, there is one regulation. You cannot be an elder or a Bishop.

You say, "Well, could she be a Pastor?" In the average evangelical protestant church in a Baptist tradition, the answer is No.....WHY?

Because they consider the Pastor to be the same as an Elder or Bishop. But just think about this for a moment. Would it not be possible to have a Board of Elders...all men, husband and fathers..managing the church. Is it not possible for them to recognize a woman's teaching and preaching ministry. Not making her an Elder. But giving her permission to preach and teach? SURE IT IS. It is possible. There were preachers and teachers in the Bible who were women. There were women prophets in the Bible. In the church in Corinth, we have women preaching in I Corinthians 11. CAN A WOMAN PREACH AND TEACH WITH ADULTS... MEN AND WOMEN?...YES ...providing she is not the Elder or the Bishop.

(2) And secondly, providing she is submissive to her husband. You see, if a woman is submissive to her husband, and if a woman is not an elder or a bishop, from a technical point of view there is no other restriction on them in the local church.

Dear friends, you must be honest with that. We must deal with this. As long as we believe that the pastors are the same as Elders, then of course a woman cannot be the pastor of a local church. But, it would be possible for her to have a preaching and teaching ministry, if the Elders approved of that. And if her husband said O.K. and encouraged her in that.

Dear friends, there is no Biblical problem with that. I know this...when two women with the same gifts teach. And one is submissive to her husband. It doesn't matter how long she talks. It is a blessing.

But if you take a woman who is not submissive to her husband, and after 30 seconds the men in the audience don't like it anymore.

The issue has always been the same. It has never been different. The Bible says a wife to her husband. It never says ALL WOMEN TO ALL MEN. We made that up. It was part of a chauvinistic, male dominated society. And I say the sooner we get rid of that the better.

On the other hand, I don't want anybody out in society telling us as a church whether a woman should be on the Board of Elders or not. The Bible has already settled that. I don't want anybody telling me that wife should not be submissive to her husband. That is not what the Bible says. We want to stay with what the Bible says.

Now, having said all of that. The problem is, in this passage, it reads: Vs 9.... The MEN PRAY....Vs 9..The WOMEN....Vs 11..The Women..Vs 12..The Women.. should not have authority over a man.

Now, which is it? Is it men in general? Women in general? Or, is it husband and wife?

Now, here is where Bill is walking on thin ice. And there are a lot of guys in the ministry who are my friends who disagree with me.

I just ask for you, please, to be open minded enough to listen for a moment Listen carefully. The N.T. was written in Greek not English. In Greek there is one word for a "woman" or a "wife" married or unmarried. You see, you can never tell by the Greek word for a woman as to whether a wife was meant or not. It has to be a bigger issue in the context. There has to be something else in the context to tell you whether it is a "wife" or a woman in general.

Are you listening? When it comes to a man, not so! The Greek has a word for "man" in general, (An'thro'pos) from which we get our word "Anthropology", the study of man.

It can also mean "mankind" referring to both men and women. Is An'thro'pos the word in the text for man? If it is, then the text is saying that all women are submissive to all men. But it is not.

How do you know that it is a husband? Every time that you mean husband, you must use a particular Greek word: in singular: "On'nar"..Plural.."On'drus" And that is the word that is found in all three of the contrivertal passages in the N.T. I do not believe that the English translators were correct. In fact, they were misleading to say "women in general" or "men in general". When in fact the issue is husband and wife. Let's go back and read it again. And we will make the word or words read correctly...

Vs 8.."Therefore, I want the husbands in every place to pray." "Like wise, I want the wives to adorn themselves."

Vs 10.."but rather by means of good works, as befits wives."

Vs 11.."Let a wife quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness." "I do not allow a wife to teach or exercise authority over her husband, but to remain quiet."

Can you understand what I am saying? It makes all the difference in the world as to how you interpret the passage.

Now, let's come back. What is our issue? A MAN OF PRAYER...Is there a need for spiritual leadership?.. YES...Vereses 1 through 7...

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THAT LEADERSHIP? What does it mean..Verse 8 to 15 And there are six words which describe that leadership.

(1) Word number one: CONSISTENCY. Look at verse 8, again. "Therefore, I want the husbands in every place to pray." Now, this word "place" can mean location or circumstance. So, let's look at it again. "I want husbands in every location or every circumstance to pray. In other words, God is emphasizing that husbands in their families being leaders. And this leadership is in prayer. CONSISTENCY. In every situation and in every place, husbands are to take the leadership in prayer.

Why should wives be praying for the children? Why aren't the husbands doing that? Why should the wife take the leadership in praying at the table? Why doesn't the husband do that? The Bible teaches that the husband should do that. That is what the Bible says.

I am not saying that the woman doesn't need to pray. I am not letting you ladies off the hook. I will have a chance at you on Mothers day. This is father day...O.K....So, relax gals. And rejoice when your guys are hit good.

CONSISTENCY is why many children are rebellious. Say one thing...Telling your kids that you believe something, but not demonstrating it in your life. Word number one: Consistency.

(2) Word number two: CONSECRATION. It says in Vs 8.."lifting up holy hands."

Now, I don't like to miss great opportunities. And I am not trying to be controversial. But, you know there are a lot of religious traditions. And there are those who really believe that what ought to be left are hands in worship. And I would like to just comment on that for a moment.

It is interesting how we often focus on the outward physical act and miss the point. It says "left up holy hands."

By the way, girls, it didn't tell you to do it. It told the husbands to do it. And as I notice, a lot of women are doing it, but it really says for the men to do it.

Now, let's take prayer. I believe that there is a real important act of worship the Bible focuses on constantly both in the O.T. as well as the N.T.. And we do very little of this. And that is to bow the knee.....AMEN?.... Get on our knees when we pray. Now, I want you to understand something. I do not believe when I get on my knees to pray, that that automatically means that I have bowed my knees to God. YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT.

It doesn't mean that I am broken and humble toward God just because I got on my knees. Well, why do I get on my knees? Sometimes it is not appropriate. It depends upon the occasion. And I certainly don't want to do it to become a show. But, in private when no one else is watching, I happen to believe that that is a great practice. Because no one else is there to impress. Get on your knees. WHY? Because the physical act in doing that is reminding you of humility before God. Who God is. And who you are.

So, do I believe in a physical act of expressing the heart?...YES... So, is it possible to left up your hands. Not trying to be a show..to someone else beside you. But, because it physically expresses what the point of the passage is..YES!...It is possible to do that. But, if you are only lefting up hands and not understanding the point you are making a big mistake.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LEFT UP HOLY HANDS?

In the book of Psalms we have several examples.

Concerning Prayer we have Psalms 28:2. Here David is praying and crying out to God with up lefted hands.

In Psalms 63:3-4 we have the example of Praise. "Because thy loving kindness is better than life, My lips will praise Thee, So I will bless thee as long as I live, I will left up my hands in Thy name."

Now, let me as you. Is is my hands or is something else involved? I think that something else is involved. If you stop focusing on hands and focus on the words "left up". All of a sudden you mind is opened up. Because through out the Psalms it speaks about "lefting up the soul."

Now, tell me. How are you going to express that physically. In Psalms 25, "Therefore I left my soul unto the Lord." In Pslams 86 and Psalms 143 we find the same thing. There are many examples. But the point that I am making is that there is a relationship between you and God. When we talk about men in spiritual leadership praying, there has to be consecration. Lefting up holy hands means you asre walking with the Lord...HOLY HANDS...Staying away from sin. Men whose prayer life is effective because they asre walking with God. There is a consecration there in their life. Whether you ever left up your hands or not, that is a physically remainder to you that your own heart needs to be in turn to God. DEAR FRIENDS, THE ISSUE IS CONSECRATION TO GOD.

(3) Word number three: CONTROL OF TEMPER.

The Bible says in Vs 8 says that"men are to left up holy hands without wrath." The Bible says in Ephesians 6:4 that "Fathers are not to provoke their children to anger."

There is nothing that so discourages and defeates the heart of a child then a father's anger. Blowing off your head...Losing your temper...Pounding your fist...hitting your kids (beside the divinal ordinate spot on the back side of the body-namely your seat). If you hit them any where else you have provoked them in a way that God never taught you to do.

Have you gotten mad? Have you blown your top? Hay! Why don't we stop missing around with each other,. folks. That kind of hostility in husbands and fathers is a major problem in our country, right now. Tthere is so m;uch much hostility in the American home, it is a miralce that any child stays around.

The rebellion among our children that we see is because they have learned it at home. Swearing like a fish...shouting in anger...blowing up at the slightest little thing. It doesn't even make sense to the child.

My friends, we need to wake up. Spiritual leadership on the part of men who know how to pray to God is without anger. They are able to control their temper. And if you cannot control your temper, you have a serious spiritual problem that demands that you get on your knees with a broken heart and getting right with God and confessing to your children and family and seeking their forgiveness for the anger that you have. This is very important.

(4) The fourth word I give you is confidence in the Lord.

Consistency...consecration..control of temper and confidence in the Lord. It says to do this, Vs 8, without dissension or doubting.

James 1:5 says "if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask in faith without doubting. For the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the lord."

You say that you are praying...you say that you are talking to God.. you say that you believe God can answer prayer...But if you don't believe it in your heart, it is doubting...The Bible says that he who comes to God must believe that he is. And that He is a rewarder of him who seeks him.

Men, I ask you. When you pray do you have confidence in the Lord? WHAT IS TRUE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP in the heart of a husband and father? It is consistency...It is consecration...It is control of temper..And there is confidence in the Lord.

(5)Number five: there is a concern for his wives needs.

Have you Ever wondered why verses 9 to 12 are in there. It is almost like an insert, or a parentheses. In verse 8 after telling men to pray. Vs 9 says "Likewise". It means in the same way that I am telling men, now I want their wives to do what? "Adorn themselves with proper clothing... Vs 11 to receive instruction with submission".....WOW!!!!

What are the major needs of wives according to I Timothy 2: There are three

~~of them~~ ~~To confess~~

There are two of them. Listen, carefully guys. This is not a message for your wife. This is a message for you.

(1) Number one; a basic need of every wife is to display her beauty in a Godly manner. I am sick and tired ...and I hope you are too...of Pastor's... which I am One...who take out of this passage the statements of how women are to dress and beat the women over the head about it. That shows me that you have not studied the passage. Because the passage is instructing men about prayer and spiritual leadership. Guess who is responsible for how the woman looks? According to this passage, the man is. That is what it says.

Now, why is this connected to a man's prayer life? Why is it connected to a man who lifts up holy hands without wrath...without doubting?

The reason it is connected is because He is responsible. And the issue is not jewelry...it is not hair styling...That is not the issue. The issue is that every man in this audience concerning spiritual leadership means that you care and you are deeply concerned about your wife's needs. And one of those needs is to display her beauty in a godly manner. A manner which is not offensive to God. And that you and your wife walk together in a manner that is a testimony of your commitment to the Lord.

(2) And the second need of the wife is very serious in this passage. And that is to depend upon her husband. And I will tell you that many, many wives cannot depend upon their husband. And so they get beat up for their failure to submit. When there is nothing to submit to.

There are ~~two~~ ^{is a} dangers, gals, in your heart in terms of your need to depend upon your husband. ^{Agreed} ~~Two~~ dangers.

(1) Number one: is a natural tendency to take over. That is what the passage is dealing with. And it usually happens because men fail to take the leadership. And wives don't know what to do. So they take the leadership. They care about their children...they care about their family...and they cannot let it go to pieces. So, they step in and do it. It is a natural tendency to do that. And God is warning women...that is why he is saying "let a woman quietly receive instruction with all submissiveness."

Does that mean that they should never talk? NO! The Greek has a word for that. And it is not in this text. This verse is talking about an attitude of a women's heart that is submissive to her husband. Meaning that that women is depending upon her husband's spiritual leadership.

Men, do you understand? Where is the responsibility? It is in your life. Are you depending upon God? Does your wife know that you are depending upon the Lord? Have she seen you on your knees prayer and seeking God's direction for your life and the life of your family?

Hay! guys. When that happens. You will meet your wifes need. Her need to depend upon you for the spiritual leadership in that family. Take over...Are you kidding. She will give you that spiritual leadership with great love and joy...

(6) The sixth and final word is COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST. A man cannot be a spiritual leader if he is not committed to Jesus Christ. And we find this principle right there in verse 15.

Now, the Bible says that Eve was deceived. And because of that she fell into transgression. Now, men, do not get a big head. Because he knew betyter. And he choose to sin.

But it says that Eve fell into trnasgression. Well, then how can she be saved?

Look at Vs 15...I am reading out of KJ. "Neverthe less, she shall be saved in child bearing, if they continue in faith, love and holyness with self control."

Now, folks, at this point I must tell all of you who are using New American Standard or the New International versions of the Bible that you have an incorrect English translation. And those translators of those Bibles know it. Very unfortunate. What they tried to do was interpret the Greek text. They put..and I will quote from the New American Standard...It says.."But women(plural) shall be preserved through the bearing of children(plural). And the New International says the same thing.

Dear friends, I am sorry. But the word "women" is not in the plural. It is a verb. And it is singular, third person. "SHE SHALL BE SAVED.

It is talking about Eve. If Eve fell into transgression, then how shall she be saved. She shall be saved through the "bearing of the child."

You see, it is not the word "children". It is singular. And the definite articule "the" is included. It is "the child." It is not any old child bearing. It is "THE CHILD" bearing.

It is referring to the promise that God gave to her. That a seed would come from her that will crush the head of the serpent. And bring salvation to all in this world. It is talking about the messiah. The incarnation. God becoming man. When Jesus was born as a baby. He was the deliverer. And is how Eve will be saved. And all the women after her, if they continue in faith, love and holyness.

Now, let me explain that. That is not saying..you must prove that you are acceptable before you can be saved. In the Greek lanugage that is called a "class statement." Meaning..maybe you do and maybe you don't. If you don't you are not saved. If you do, you are saved.

Or, let me put it another way. What he is saying is that if you really are saved, we are going to see it in your life. There will be faith...there will be love...there will be holyness.

This is tremendous. I look at this text and I said PRAISE THE LORD. Do you know what ever man needs in order to be a spiritual leader? The same thing his wife needs. And that is a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. The only salvation possible to any of us, is through Jesus Christ our lord. He is the way, the truth, and the life. And no one come to the Father except through Him. Wow! I look at this whole passage and I say, Do you know what men need to do? THEY NEED TO PRAY...PRAY.....Pray...

Let's close in prayer