

## **ALL Christian Growth Hour June 29, 2025**

*2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

What does this passage say about God?

### **Table Time**

*1 Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.*

What does Paul encourage us to do in verses 1 and 2? How can our actions in verses 1 and 2 lead to the result at the end of verse 2?

What is God's desire (v. 4) and how does it relate to the previous verses?

What is the role(s) of Jesus listed in verses 5 and 6? Why is that important?

*1 Timothy 1:12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.*

What was Paul (Saul) prior to his conversion? Why had Saul acted the way he did (v.13)?

What changed in his life to bring him to faith?

Paul describes himself as the foremost of sinners. What does that imply for those who appear to be far from faith in Jesus?

*Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

It is easy to view people who are opposed to us and Christianity as our enemies. What does this passage say about who our real enemies are?

How can this passage change our perspective about the people we see as our enemies?

*2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*

What is the motivation for us to reach out to unbelievers?

Because Jesus died for all, how should we be living our lives?

*2 Corinthians 5:18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

What does reconcile mean?

Because Christ reconciled us to God, what are we to be about (v. 18)?

What is the role of an ambassador? What does God want to do through us (v. 20)?

*1 Peter 3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*

What should we be prepared to do?

How should we do that?

## **Big Group**

Comments or questions

*Matthew 19:23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

Is it possible for us to create saving faith in another person? Who can?