

Does God desire everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:1-6)?

One of the controversial doctrines is the doctrine of universal salvation, which means that 100% of all people of all time will be saved. Many people rely on 1 Timothy 2 as the text to use to understand the doctrine.

1. What does the context tell us about God's salvation plan?
1 Timothy **2:1-8**

The primary context of this section is salvation. The primary tool for salvation is prayer and the preaching of the word of God. Paul challenges the people to pray for their leaders, who were engaged with acts of persecution against them, with the goal that they might be saved. Later, Paul again challenges the people to pray “without wrath and doubting”. Our prayers are not to target their condemnation and judgment but their salvation. At the same time Paul identifies the very reason that he is a preacher, that people might be saved.

2. Why would Paul indicate that God's desire is the salvation of every person?
Genesis **1:26-27**
Isaiah **48:9-12**

Every human being was created in the image and likeness of God. God knows that we we sin, we damage the view that others have of who God is and what His nature is like. Therefore God desires that the representation of God that we make be a representation that honors Him and His name. God is very protective of His name, as each of us should be.

3. If God desires the salvation of all people, why doesn't He just do it?
 Deuteronomy **30:19-20** Romans **9:21-23**
 Psalm **96:10-13**; 98:9 Acts **17:29-31**
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God's great desire for each person is that the person truly love God and desire to be with Him. The blanket salvation of all people would not accomplish that. For those who do receive the gift of salvation, it is that much sweeter when we understand that the outpouring of God's wrath is a real and legitimate prospect for many people. Furthermore, if God just decreed the salvation of all people, would His righteous judgment have any real meaning? After all if the guilty go free with no recourse then God would not be a righteous judge. If on the other hand, God is willing to demonstrate the reality of His righteous wrath, then we are better able to comprehend the reality of righteous judgment and righteous condemnation.

4. What role does prayer have in the salvation of others?
 2 Chronicles **14:8-15** Judges **7:1-4**
 Matthew **19:24-26**

Prayer is the humble recognition that we are powerless in our endeavors and it recognizes that it is God and God alone who is capable of accomplishing anything. It places us into a position of absolute dependence upon God with no reliance upon ourselves nor upon other people. The salvation of another is an impossibility for men, but a strong possibility with God because only with God would it be possible at all.

5. What is necessary for another person to be saved?

Romans **10:13-17**

Acts **16:30-31**

John **16:7-11**

1 Corinthians 1:18

2 Corinthians **5:18-21**

In order for someone to be saved, they need to hear the very Words of God. The words of the speaker, preacher or teacher are worthless, unless they are the very words of God. It is only through understanding the words of God that a person can be convicted in regards to their personal sin and convinced of the perfect righteousness of God and thus His perfect justice. AS the individual understands that he is not perfect but is in dire need for the mercy of God in order to have any hope at all, then the person is in a position to seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ. Salvation is the work of God in the life of a person from beginning to end but God has called those who believe in Jesus Christ to work in this life as the mouthpiece of God in word and in deed.