

## The Pillar | One God and One Mediator

### 1 Timothy 2:3-7

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'How big is God's heart?' we are asked. That's a questions to try to wrap our brains around, but possibly an equal question is 'What keeps us from seeing His heart?' or 'What am I doing or not doing that prohibits me seeing the heart of God?' Paul is trying to show Timothy the immensity of what His desires are for the world, and it is Timothy's ....and our charge to be used of Him to bring it about.

1. What encouraes your godly concern for others? What are some things in your life that give you insight into the heart of God.....to see others how He sees them, to have compassion on them as He does.....and to be moved to action as He is?
2. Have you noticed, on the flipside, that there are other activities and mindsets that steal the heart of God from our hearts, that squelch any semblance of what God is really after in us or in others, and certainly prohibits any kind of compassion from flowing from us? What are some of those things we do that accomplish this?
3. Why is it even important to desire to know the heart of God? Why spend the time in that effort? What is the upside of it? Is there a downside of knowing the heart of God? If we really are seeking after His true heart, will be even entertain the thought that there is a downside?
4. How were you pleasing to God last week in your praying for all people, for kings, for all who are in high positions? How were you pleasing to him in leading a peaceful and quiet life, by being godly an ddignified in every way? Your first week out of the gate into 2012, how did it go on the 'pleasing God' scale?
5. How do you keep your focus off of yourself? What do you do, or plan to do in 2012, that keeps the focus on 'all peoples' and how to meet their needs? What are your plans to better understand the 'heart of God' for others and for yourself?
6. Comment on this from the sermon: "Something is terribly wrong when the church or people in the church are only concerned about their spirtual needs or growth. It would seem that such a group does not really understand what the gospel really is all about." What difference does this statement make, or should it make, in your life?
7. What danger is upon your life, or could be upon your life, when you uphold the biblical standard that there is one true God and one true mediator? What does that imply to all other professed gods and mediators.
8. Why do many in our families and spheres of influence believe there is no need for a mediator? What have they been led to believe about themselves that does not require a mediator? How do you live in such a way that points to the fact that there is one and one only mediator: Jesus Christ? How do they tell a difference in your life regarding this truth?

9. What are some ways you can stop believing in yourself and believe afresh in the Good News of the Gospel? Then, how can you begin to change your lifestyle and involve yourself in ways that will encourage belief in Him and less/no belief in yourself?