

Lessons From II Thessalonians

Pray For Us As We Pray For You

(II Th 3:1-5)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greetings...
2. Series of “Lessons From II Thessalonians.”
 - a. Last week we looked at “The Tradition.”
 - i. **II Th 2:15** “So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to examine “Pray For Us As We Pray For You.”
 - i. **II Th 3:1-5** “Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, 2 and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. 4 And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. 5 May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.”
3. Paul’s final thoughts to the brethren at Thessalonica.
 - a. There are two main thoughts that spring forth from this last chapter.
 - i. First Paul request for pray and his prayer for them.
 - ii. Second Paul spends a great deal of space on idleness and laziness.
 - b. We are going to examine Paul’s first thoughts here in this chapter.
4. With these things in mind let us examine our text for today.

I. Pray For Us

- A. Paul requested prayers from the brethren at Thessalonica
 1. Paul’s requesting of prayers was not something he was unaccustomed to doing.
 2. He requested prayers from...
 - i. The church in Thessalonica.
 - a. **I Th 5:25**
 - ii. The church in Rome.
 - a. **Ro 15:30-32**
 - iii. The church in Corinth.
 - a. **II Co 1:11**
 - iv. The church in Philippi.
 - a. **Ph 1:19**
 - v. The church in Colosse.
 - a. **Co 4:3**
 - vi. The church meeting in Philemon’s house.
 - a. **Pl 22**

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- B. Paul asked for three specific things to be in the brethren's prayers
1. That the Word of the Lord would speed/run ahead as it did with them.
 - i. The idea here is that the Word would quickly mature in other Christians as it did with the Thessalonians.
 - a. Remember the church had in less than six months matured to the point of having elders.
 1. **I Th 5:12-13** "We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves."
 2. That the Word of the Lord would be glorified or honored as it was with them.
 - i. The idea here is recognition followed by salvation.
 - a. **Ac 13:47-48** "For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, " 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' " 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed."
 - b. **II Th 2:13** "But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."
 3. That he, Timothy, and Silas would be delivered from the wicked and evil men.
 - i. Paul here is talking specifically about the Jews.
 - a. They had rejected truth.
- C. Thus...
1. Brethren I can think of no greater prayer requests than these!!!

II. Our Prayer For You

- A. Paul informs the brethren of two specific things he will pray on their behalf
1. That the Lord would direct their hearts to the love of God.
 - i. The idea here is that they would fulfill the law.
 - a. They already possessed a brotherly love.
 1. **I Th 4:9-10** "Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more"
 - b. Now Paul wants them to have a total agape toward God.
 - a. **Mt 22:37** "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

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- c. These two fulfill the law.
 - a. **Mt 22:40** "On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
 - b. **Ro 13:10** "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."
 - iii. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to fulfill the law.
 2. That the Lord would direct their hearts to the steadfastness of Christ.
 - i. When one looks into the life of Christ one sees an amazing patience during some of the most adverse times.
 - a. From the onslaught of criticism, to the beatings at the hands of the Romans to the crucifixion at the hands of the Jews.
 - ii. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to be as steadfast as the Christ.
- B. Thus...
1. Brethren is there a more worthy desire we should have that our brethren pray on our behalf?

CONCLUSION

1. Brothers and sisters as you think about this let it be said of us that our concerning is for one another.
 - a. That in our daily prayers we are constantly praying for each other.
2. Question: Are you focused in your prayer life in praying for one another?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**