

Paul's Second Epistle To The

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 3:1-5

MEDIA REFERENCE SM242 ~ OCTOBER 27, 1996

TITLE:

“ANSWERED PRAYER, GUARANTEED”

AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

THEME:

2 Thessalonians 2:2

“Do not be shaken in mind or troubled.... either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”

INTRODUCTION: Reading of the Text 3:1-5

IN TRUE MILITARY FORM, GENERAL PAUL GIVES HIS ORDERS

But Always in Love, Paul Now begins his farewell address. The church at Thessalonica had been corrected about the rapture and the second coming and about their conduct as they awaited the return of Jesus Christ... that was (2,000 yrs. Ago) Jack - We're still waiting !

He had told them to:

- Be aware that the appearing of Christ is **Imminent**
- Be strong in the Face of **Persecution**
- Watch out for Impostors and **False Doctrine**
- Continue on in **the Word** of God
- Maintain a close **Fellowship** with Believers

He Exhorts Them to Pray

We All Need to Be Exhorted to Pray Because we often Lose Heart

((LIKE THE LITTLE BOY WHO WANTED A NEW BIKE))

1.) A Call to Prayerfulness	vv. 1
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Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,

a) Paul Picks His Last Words Very Carefully

Finally, brethren

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Finally GRK 3063 loipon (loy-pon')

Now and forever more. from this moment on

He's wanting to leave in their hearts and minds a lasting impression of what they mean to Paul...

Think about Yourself when

you're Saying Goodbye to People who mean a great deal to you...
You're Careful...

Careful - Not Because you might say the wrong thing - NO!
But you're "Full of Care" for them

Jesus' Example:

John 16:12

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. John "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;

pray for us

Oh O' - The Great Apostle Needed Prayer !

- If Paul Needed Prayer - I Need Prayer • If Paul Prayed - I Need To Pray
- If Jesus Needed Prayer - I Need Prayer • If Jesus Prayed - I Need To Pray

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Pray GRK 4336 proseuchomai (pros-yoo'-khom-ahee)

THE PRESENT TENSE, Be praying and keep on praying

1 Thessalonians 5:17

pray without ceasing, **(ALWAYS)**

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **(EVERYTHING)**

But Doesn't God Already Know What I Need?

Matthew 6:7

"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. :8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Then Why Pray?

#1 Because True Prayer Causes Me to Communicate With God

#2 It increases my faith in God

Prayer is to be Faith-Filled (who you're praying to)

Prayer is to be Passionate (have a purpose to your praying)

Prayer is to be Right (according to the Bible)

Prayer is to be "Faith-Filled"

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Prayer is to be "Fervent"

(have a purpose to your praying)

Matthew 7:7

"**Ask**,-ing and it will be given to you; **seek**,-ing and you will find; **knock**,-ing and it will be opened to you. :8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Prayer is to be "Focused"

(according to the Bible)

James 4:1-2

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? :2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have **because you do not ask**.

b) Paul's Prayer Request

(#1)

*that the Word of the Lord may have **free course**
(run swiftly)*

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Free Course GRK 5143 trecho (trekh'-o)

to run or walk all over with haste or with great speed

Psalm 147:15

He sends out His commands to the earth; his Word runs very swiftly.

I am always amazed at the scope of God's word
crossing Europe & the various countries

Paul's Prayer should be your Vision & mine
"that the Word of the Lord may have free course"

(#2)

and(that the word would) be glorified, just as it is with you,

*

Glorified GRK 1392 doxazo (dox-ad'-zo)

to bring honor towards or to magnify.

His Prayer was Answered... Look Around you

So Let's Pray the Same Prayer and Have it Answered Too

Praying According to the Will of God

((is the key to answered prayer))

John 14:12-13

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be **glorified** in the Son.

John 15:7-8

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. :8 "By this My Father is **glorified**, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

God Loves to Answer "Glorifying" Prayers

2.) A Call to Preservation

vv. 2

(#3)

*and that we may be **delivered** (RESCUED) from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.*

- There are those who are of God - They have Faith
- There are those who are of Satan - They do not have Faith

2 Corinthians 4:3

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 2 Cor 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

- * **unreasonable** GRK824 atopos (at'-op-os);
thinking that is out of place, illogical reasoning

3.) A Call to Protection

vv. 3

*But the Lord is faithful, who will **establish** you and **guard** you from the evil one.*

If you're "UNREASONABLE" regarding God, you're under the control of the wicked one
But the Lord is faithful,

- * **establish** GRK4741 sterizo (stay-rid'-zo)
to turn resolutely in a certain direction, or to confirm: to strengthen.

- * **Guard** 5442 phulasso (foo-las'-so)
through the idea of isolation; to stand watch, to be on guard for you

The Holy Spirit Does This !!!

John 16:8

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of **sin**, and of **righteousness**, and of **judgment**: "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**THE IMAGE HERE IS OF A SHEPHERD WATCHING OVER THE FLOCK
DURING THE MOST DANGEROUS HOURS**

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken (COME YOUR WAY) you except such as is common to man (ALL OF US); but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able (TO HANDLE), but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan has said
“It’s the job of the Pastor to feed the sheep, not entertain the goats

Verse 4

*And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do
the things we command you.*

4.) A Call to Patience

vv. 5

(#4)

Now may the Lord **direct** your hearts into the love of God

(#5)

and into the **patience** of Christ.