

Series: Praying with Paul by D.A. Carson

Sermon: A Framework for Prayer

Primary text: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Book reference: Chapter 2

Discussion guide:

- If you or your group have the book and are reading along, there are some great questions at the end of each chapter that will serve you well.
- What is prayer?
- Why do you pray?
- What do you typically pray about?
- Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
- V. 11 says “With this in mind, we constantly pray for you...”
 - What is it that Paul has in mind?
- Re-read verses 3-4
 - Why should thankfulness be an initial motivator to prayer?
 - In the sermon it was said that some Christians often treat God like a spare tire. What was, that point there?
 - Are you guilty of this?
 - What more is prayer than simply making requests of God? (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 & Philippians 4:6)
 - What do you thank God the most for?
 - Carson says that what you thank God the most for shows what we value most. If this is true, what do you value most?
 - What is Paul thankful for in particular in the text?
 - Why is seeing the Thessalonian Christians grow in their faith so wonderful to Paul that He would thank God for it?
 - Why is the increase in the Thessalonian Christians love for each other so wonderful to Paul that He would thank God for it? (See John 17:21; John 13:35)
- Re-read verses 5-10
 - How does Paul’s confidence in Jesus’ return affect his praying for the Thessalonian church?
 - Why is it important that anticipation of Jesus’ return be basic to the Christians mind?
 - Why is it important for the Christian to know that their faith will be vindicated?
 - Why is it important that justice will be delivered?
 - Carson asks, “Can biblical spirituality long survive where Christians are not oriented to the world to come? And, in this context, can we expect to pray aright unless we are oriented to the world to come?”
 - How would you answer such questions?