



**Worthy of our Calling
2 Thessalonians 1:11,12**

Just because we have a future hope of being glorified and spending eternity with God doesn't mean we neglect our present responsibility. Therefore, Paul prayed for the Thessalonians. This prayer is the first of five in this short letter. Paul had three concerns in his prayer:

Their Worthiness (11a)

Paul encouraged the Thessalonians in verse 5 that they would be counted worthy. Here in verse eleven, he prays God would make them worthy of their calling. Ultimate salvation rests on God's sure faithfulness (1 Th 5:24) but until God accomplishes it, Paul prays for it. Another way to understand what Paul is praying is that trials don't make a person, trials reveal what a person is made of. God knows our hearts, but we don't, and others don't. So, Paul is praying that worthiness is revealed in the trials they suffered. He wanted them to continue being purified through their trials rather than abandoning God. What is our calling? God calls us to salvation (Rom 8:28-30). In the New Testament the word translated church means "called out assembly." After salvation, we're called to grow in Christian virtue and good works (2 Peter 1:5-10). God has also given each of us spiritual gifts which He has called us to use to help each other mature in our faith (Eph 4:11-16).

Their Walk (11b)

Obedience and service do not spring from human talents and efforts, but from God's power as we trust Him. So, Paul prayed for God's power in their lives so that they could do good works. The success of doing good works and persevering in trials comes from the power of God and faith in God.

Their Witness (12)

One day God will glorify us when our salvation is complete. As we are being glorified now by God (that is being made into the likeness of Jesus) Paul prays that we would glorify God. In ancient times one's name was often more than a label. It summed up what a person was. Unbelievers blaspheme His name (1 Peter 4:12ff), we are to glorify it. How do we do that? We glorify God by honoring Him with praise and worship. We direct our praise, adoration, thanksgiving and worship to God who alone is worthy of worship. Giving glory to God is more than a song. We also glorify God by our good works and service (Matt 5:16; John 15:8). When people hear us speak, sing and act, they should be directed to God and give Him praise. Note that it is by the grace of God that we are able to glorify God.