



Thoughtful Prayers from Thessalonians- Prayer II

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Pray for the nations this week.

¹ Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,

Text Message:

○ In week one, we saw that:

- 1) The Apostle Paul prayed specific prayers for the churches he was in relationship with.
- 2) He viewed each church not simply as a

collection of individuals, but as a body; a whole.

3) We can rightly say, “God loves you **and** God loves us!”

4) We need to be in relationship with Christ **and** His Church!

- Here the apostle Paul breaks away from praying **for** the church and requests prayer **from** the church.

- Look at prayer in Verse 1 above. Now jump down to our prayer verse for this request.

- Acts 17:11 contrasts the Jews from Berea who received the Gospel with those in Thessalonica who didn't. Essentially, this is a prayer for the word to be latched onto as it was in Berea!

- **This week's Prayer Verse for the nations:**

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; ***they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily*** to see if these things were so. Acts 17:11, (emphasis mine)

Pray for the persecuted this week.

² and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.

Text Message:

- In another letter to a different church, Paul summarizes his physical, emotional, and spiritual hardships. See if you can “feel his pain:”

Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned.

Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. 1

Corinthians 11:24-28

- These are not only historical experiences of the first to proclaim the gospel but happen every day in our world!
- **This week's Prayer Verse for the Persecuted:**
 - ^{2a} ... that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men.

Pray for right priorities this week.

⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ

Text Message:

- Note how this request involves both our inner self and outward behavior. In other words, there is an “inside job” and an “outside job” here.
- Inside Job:
May the Lord direct **your hearts to the love of God...**
- Outside Job:
... and to **the steadfastness of Christ.**

This week's Prayer Verse for right priorities:

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. 2

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