



1 & 2 Thessalonians (Lesson # 28)

Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

A Small Overview Review

Chester McCalley wrote a Commentary on I & II Thessalonians and he wrote that

I Thessalonians may be divided into two parts.

First, the Thessalonians are reminded of how they received the word of God (1:1-3:13).

Second, the Thessalonians are told how to live the word of God (4:1-5:28).



1 & 2 Thessalonians (Lesson # 28)

Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

A Small Overview

Chester McCalley wrote a Commentary on I & II Thessalonians and he wrote that

2 Thessalonians may be divided into four parts.

1st, they are **commended for growing in both faith and love (1:1-3).**

2nd, they are **encouraged to remain steadfast while being persecuted. (1:4-12).**

3rd, they are **corrected concerning the day of the Lord (2:1-17)**

4th, they are **rebuked for reprehensible conduct (3:1-18)**



Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

Previous context to today's lesson, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-10

* **2 Thessalonians 1:1** Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ² Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater; ⁴ therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

⁵ *This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

⁶ For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

⁹ These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed.



Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

Today's text, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

¹¹ To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,

¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.



Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,

εἰς [prep with acc εἰς] **to**, into, focus on a purpose

ὃ [pronoun rel acc neut sing ὃς] **this**

καὶ [conj, καί] and, even, **also**, indeed

προσευχόμεθα [v ind pres mid/pass dep 1p pl προσεύχομαι] **we are praying**

πάντοτε [adv πάντοτε] **always**, continuously

περὶ [prep with gen περί] **about**, around

ὑμῶν, [pronoun pers gen pl σύ] **you**

**** My literal translation**

To this end also we are always praying about you,



Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

¹¹ To this end also we pray for you always, **that our God will count you worthy of your calling**, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,

ἵνα [conj subord ἵνα] in order that, **that**
 ὑμᾶς [pronoun pers acc pl σύ] **you**
 ἀξιῶση [v subj aor act 3p sing ἀξιόω] **may count worthy**
 τῆς κλήσεως [art+noun gen fem sing ἡ κλήσις] **of the calling**
 ὁ θεὸς [def art+noun nom masc sing ὁ θεός] **the God**
 ἡμῶν, [pronoun pers gen pl ἐγώ] of us, **our**

**** My literal translation**

that our God may count you worthy of the calling



Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

* ¹¹ To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, **and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,**

καὶ [conj, καί] **and**, even, also, indeed

πληρώση [v subj aor act 3p sing πληρώω] **may fulfill**, bring to God's goal or (Constable) bring to full expression every good purpose

πᾶσαν [adj indef acc fem sing πᾶς] all, **every**

εὐδοκίαν [noun acc fem sing εὐδοκία] goodwill, **pleasure**, what pleases

ἀγαθωσύνης [noun gen fem sing ἀγαθωσύνη] moral excellence, **out of goodness** (gen of source)

καὶ [conj, καί] **and**, even, also, indeed

ἔργον [noun acc neut sing ἔργον] **work**, deed, task

πίστεως [noun gen fem sing πίστις] **out of faith** (gen of source)

ἐν [prep with dative ἐν] in, of, by, **with**

δυνάμει [noun dat fem sing δύναμις] **power**,

**** My literal translation**

and may fulfill every pleasure out of goodness, and work out of faith with power

**** Alternate valid literal translation**

and by His power may fulfill every pleasure out of goodness, and work out of faith



Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

* ¹² **so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him**, according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.

ὅπως [conj subord ὅπως] **in order that**, of purpose out of the previous ἵνα purpose
 ἐνδοξασθῆ [v subj aor pass 3p sing ἐνδοξάζομαι] be esteemed, **be glorified**, honored
 τὸ ὄνομα [def art+noun nom neut sing ὄνομα] the name, **the reputation**, the essence
 τοῦ κυρίου [def art+noun gen masc sing κύριος] **of the Lord**
 ἡμῶν [pronoun pers gen pl ἐγώ] of us, **our**
 Ἰησοῦ [noun gen masc sing proper Ἰησοῦς] **Jesus**
 ἐν [prep with dative ἐν] in, of, **by**, with (taken as dative of instrumentality here)
 ὑμῖν, [pronoun pers dat pl σύ] **you**
 καὶ [conj, καί] **and, even**, also, indeed]
 ὑμεῖς [pronoun pers nom pl σύ] **you** (*be glorified*)
 ἐν [prep with dative ἐν] in, of, **by**, with (taken as dative of instrumentality here)
 αὐτῷ [pronoun pers dat masc sing αὐτός] **Him**

**** My literal translation**

**in order that the reputation of our Lord Jesus may be glorified by you,
 and you *may be glorified* by Him**



Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

* ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, **according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.**

κατὰ [prep with acc κατά] to indicate standard or norm *in agreement with, corresponding to, **in conformity with**, according to*

τὴν χάριν [def art+noun acc fem sing χάρις] **the grace**, the unlimited blessings of God based on the infinite work of Christ for us on the Cross...

τοῦ θεοῦ [def art+noun gen masc sing θεός] **of the God**

ἡμῶν [pronoun pers gen pl ἐγώ] of us, **our**

καὶ [conj, καί] **and**, even, also, indeed]

κυρίου [noun gen masc sing κύριος] **Lord**

Ἰησοῦ [noun gen masc sing proper Ἰησοῦς] **Jesus**

χριστοῦ. [noun gen masc sing proper Χριστός] **Christ**

**** My literal translation**

in conformity with the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ



Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

*** ¹¹ To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.**

**** My literal translation**

¹¹ To this *end* also we are always praying about you, that our God may count you worthy of the calling, and by *His* power may fulfill every pleasure out of goodness, and work out of faith

¹² in order that the reputation of our Lord Jesus may be glorified by you, and you *may be glorified* by Him, in conformity with the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ

***** Wuest's expanded translation**

¹¹To which end also we are praying always for you, namely, that our God may count you worthy of the station in life to which He has called you, and fulfill every delight [you Thessalonian saints have] in goodness and every work that finds its source in faith with power, ¹²in order that the Name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God, even the Lord Jesus Christ.



Prayer in Light of the Righteous Judgment of God – 2 Thess 1:11-12

Things to observe here about prayer

1:11-12 is the first of **five prayers** for the Thessalonians contained in this short letter. The first prayer is that they would be steadfast while persecuted, so the work of God in them, (revealed by suffering), would result in God's name or reputation being praised.

See also these remaining four expressions of prayer to God for these believers:

2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

3:5 May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

3:16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!

3:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Question:

Based on these prayers, do we see ways our prayers for fellow believers may be improved to include at least these things asked for the Thessalonians?



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Three points of focus in prayer, # 1

1:5 is about the future “that they be worthy of the kingdom when they enter glory”,

1 Peter 1:6-9 ... v7 so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (2 Thess 2:13-14 also)

1:11a is about the present, because trials do not make a person worthy, but they reveal what a person is made of. **When we are tried, God’s worthy work in us is revealed to us.** God knows this already; all His work in us is for good, we have to learn this...

2 Cor 3:18 ...we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit

Like Paul, we may pray that God will do and reveal His worthy work to us, as He makes us more valuable Christians to Him, through the trials we endure.

And we, like Paul, may pray that God will do and reveal His worthy work in all His called out ones, His Church, both here in Denver, and throughout the world.

Our condition now, is incomplete but a growing one, our condition when Raptured will be finished, but still growing. We will be like Him, and able to see Him as His is, and ourselves as He sees us, in purity, learning one line at a time into unmeasured eternity.



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Three points of focus in prayer, # 2

1:11b is about the present also, but here we learn that the worthy character of Christ in us leads to worthy works of Christ from us in/by His power.

Faith is linked with love in 2 Thess 1:3 ...your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater;

Faith is linked with endurance in 2 Thess 1:4 ... we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

Faith is linked with power in 2 Thess 1:11b ... and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, The NIV translates it this way, **“that by His power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act promoted by your faith”**

And we, like Paul, may pray that God will give each of us His powerful reality to believe from His written word, the Bible, so that this trust of ours in His reality will have His power acting in us and through us.

2 Cor 2:14-16, thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us **the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him** in every place.¹⁵ For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life.

We have God’s powerful odor which leads to life or to death



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Three points of focus in prayer # 3

Paul has said that He will fully reveal His glory and be glorified by His Church, when He comes back to be King of kings, and Lord of lords with His Church. 2 Thess 1:10

The present work of God in v11, lays the foundation for the work of God that is seen in v12.

1 That He now is revealing His worthy work to us, as He transforms us into His glory.

2 That He now is in the measure of His power, bringing to His goals every purpose we have that is out from the reality of Him that we believe from His word.

3 That right now He, before we are gathered together to be with Him forever at the Rapture, is glorifying His Name, His Reputation by His work in us

v12a ... so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him...

And how is this done?

It is done out of the abundance of the unmerited blessings of God that are ours because of the finished work of Christ for our sins, and the gift of His Spirit who is making His glory to be revealed through us, ie, His Name, His reputation , His Infinite Glory.

v12b ,, , according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.