



2nd Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

2 Thess 3:1-5 – Request for Prayer

- Keathley III – ‘With chapter 3 Paul begins to bring this epistle to a close, but in doing so, we are privileged to see a wonderful model as Paul demonstrates how his team’s confidence lay not in human plans, promotion, programs, or human personalities, but in the Lord Himself’.
- ***2 Thessalonians 3:1,2 - Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.***
 - *Finally, brethren, pray for us (Paul, Timothy, Silas), that the word (logos) of the Lord may run and be glorified,*
 - And this is not unusual for Paul to ask for prayer for himself.
 - How should we interpret *the word of the Lord may run and be glorified?*
 - *may run* perhaps better translated *as have free course*
 - » This request probably reflects the barriers we covered in *2 Thess 2:14-18*.
 - What’s being *glorified* here?



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- This prayer (*imperative*) is bonding - *just as it is with you*
 - » *1 Thess 5:11- Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.*
- How would we feel if this statement were directed towards us?
 - *and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men*
- Who is *we*?
- Let's reflect on *unreasonable and wicked men*.
 - *unreasonable – atopos - out of place, improper, unrighteous, harmful*
 - Christ at Calvary
 - » *Luke 23:41 - “And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but **this Man has done nothing wrong (atopos).**”*
 - Paul on Malta
 - » *Acts 28:6 - However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time **and saw no harm (atopos) come to him**, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.*
 - *wicked (ponēros)* – in a physical or ethical sense; often equated with Satan
 - » *1 John 2:13 - write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because **you have overcome the wicked (poneros) one**.....*



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– These men may be the unbelieving Jews in Corinth

» *Acts 18:5,6 - When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. **But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, “Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”***

• ***2 Thessalonians 3:3 - But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.***

– *But the Lord is faithful* – what’s new here anyway (*Deut 7:9; Isa 49:7; Luke 12:42; 1 Cor 1:9; 1 Cor 4:17; Rev 17:14*)?

– *who will establish (future) you*

• What does it mean *to be established* by the Lord?

– *make stable, strengthen, render constant*

» *Rom 16:25 - Now to Him who is able to **establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began.*

» *1 Peter 5:10 - But the God of all grace, who called to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.***

» *2 Tim 2:13 - **If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.***



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» *Jude 1:24 - Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless. Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*

- *2 Thessalonians 3:4 - And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.*
 - *And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you,*
 - *Is this redundancy necessary?*
 - Of interest, *have confidence in* is the perfect tense – does this help.
 - » *2 Cor 3:4 - And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all.*
 - » *Gal 5:10 - I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.*
 - *both that you do (present active) and will do (future active) the things we command you.*
 - *Apparently, this was not true of all!*
 - » *Phil 2:12 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*



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» *2 Thess 3:11 - For we hear that **there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.***

- How should we interpret *command (indicative not imperative)*, and this is **not a message but a charge?**
 - And this charge is also seen in *verses 6,10,13* of this chapter.
 - This is a note of apostolic authority not advice or urging, but command.
 - Does this relate to us today and if so, how should we interpret it?

- ***2 Thessalonians 3:5 - Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience (endurance) of Christ.***

– *may the Lord direct (aorist active optative) your heart*

- Blue Letter Bible - This verb tense is generally used in the so-called "fourth-class" condition which express a wish or desire for an action to occur in which the completion of such is doubtful – rarely used in the Greek NT.
 - McCalley – ‘The verb direct means to make straight and anticipates difficulty along the way. Paul sees many things stand in the way of growth.’



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- Why the hearts?
 - » *Rom 10:10 - For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- Why does this seem so unlikely; therefore, how does this happen?
 - » *1 John 4:19 - We love because He first loved us.*
 - Doesn't it start with position?
 - In ourselves we have *no love of God or patience (endurance or steadfast waiting for)* in ourselves!
 - » *Heb 12:1,2 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
 - » *Col 3:1,2 - If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*
 - » *Heb 10:36,37 - For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*