

Praying With Paul

#5 ~ 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12 ~ *Counted Worthy*

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. 5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving (again) comes before Petition

- What do we give thanks for?
- What does Paul give thanks for?
 - o Signs of God's grace
 - Something to be proud of...
 - Evidence of God's right judgment

A 'kingdom' prayer...

- THAT is what they will be considered worthy of (v5a)
 - THAT is what they are suffering for (v5b)
 - THEN vengeance will be inflicted, and relief granted (vv6-9)
 - THEN the Lord Jesus will be glorified IN HIS SAINTS (v10a)
 - THEN all the saints will MARVEL at the Lord Jesus (v10b)
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- o Anticipation of Glory
 - o Confident of Justice

Paul's Prayer

"With this in mind..." or "To this end..."

- "that God may make you worthy of his calling"
 - God's call is effective
 - Paul prays for more signs of grace to abound

- that God "may fulfil every resolve for good and every work of faith "
 - How can this be!?
 - What might this look like?

- "by his power"
 - No passivity among the Lord's people...
 - but a participation in the Lord's work

We can't all do everything, but we can all do something!

- "So that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you..."
 - And you... in him!

On what grounds?

- "according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ"

A moment to consider...

- What 'resolve for good' or 'work of faith' has the Lord put on your heart and mind?

Let's pray...

- that the Lord might make us worthy of his calling
- and that he might fulfil in us, every resolve for good and every work of faith
 - by his power
 - for his glory
 - according to his grace