

Edgemont Bible Church
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Thessalonians

Oct. 30, 2016

Intro:

VII. A Pastoral Prayer - 3:11-13

A. The Form of Paul's Prayer - vs 11a

1. "God" instead of "You"

a. May

- i. Greek grammar used here is expressing a wish or desire
- ii. Not Paul's usual form of praying though he did use it occasionally
5:23; 2 Thess 3:5,16

b. Addresses God by His name in the first Person

c. "our"

- i. Includes the Thessalonians
- ii. Emphasizes personal relationship with both members of the Godhead

2. and our Lord Jesus Christ,

a. by including Christ, Paul shows equality in the God head

b. Shows that Paul is desiring that Both would be involved in

c. See 1c.

d. "Himself"

- i. in the emphatic position in Greek word order
- ii. Could be translated - Now may Himself, our God and Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,
- iii. Used with the singular verb - "direct" - shows equality and unity in the Godhead

B. The Purpose of Paul's Prayer - vs 11b-13

1. A Perfecting Faith - vs 11b

a. the motive of Paul's prayer

i. never says that

ii. Identified by vs 10

- night and day praying exceedingly
- that we may see your face
- and perfect what is lacking in your faith?
-in the sense of Eph 4:11-12

b. the ministry of perfecting one's faith

i. **katartizo** - to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust:--fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect(-ly join together), prepare, restore.

ii. Lu 6:40 "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is **perfectly** trained will be like his teacher.

iii. 1Co 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be **perfectly** joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

iv. 2Co 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Become **complete**.

v. Ga 6:1 you who are spiritual **restore** such a one

vi. Heb 10:5 But a body You have **prepared** for Me.

vii. Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were **framed** by the word of God,

viii. Heb 13:21 **make you complete**

ix. 1Pe 5:10 But may the God of all grace, ... **perfect, establish,** strengthen, and settle you.

c. direct our way to you

i. for this spiritual work to continue, Paul's prayer is that God would

- **kateuthuno** - to straighten fully, direct, guide.

- Conveys the idea of laying out a straight smooth path with all obstacles removed

ii. Up until then, Satan hindered them - 2:18

- only God's power would overcome that hindrance

- his prayer, though being a desire, is submitted to God's will - Ps 37:1; Pro 3:5-6

iii. In completing their faith Paul's desire was to

- expand their knowledge of God through His revealed truth

- which would enlarge their trust in Him enabling them to walk in obedience to His will

- How does that happen? - Jo 17:17

-feeding or teaching them scripture

-1 Pe 2:2

iv. Their response to God's word would reveal if their faith is growing

- doer of the word - Jas 1:21-22,25,27

- hearer of the word - Jas 1:22-24,26

v. Though Paul didn't get back to Thessalonica

- he saw his desire realized

- evidenced by what he writes in 2 Thess 1:3

2. A Prospering Love - vs 12

a. And may the Lord make you

i. Paul depended on the Lord for the development of spiritual virtues

- the beginning of spiritual life - justification - Ro 3:30;8:30,33;

- in the process - sanctification - Jo 17:17; 1 Th 5:23; Jd 1

ii. increase and abound in love

- based on the fact that they already had and had exhibited love - Ro 5:5; 1 Th 1:3; 3:6
- the virtue that binds the others in perfection - Col 3:14
- Ro 13:8-10; 1 Co 13:4, 13; 16:14; Gal 5:13-14,22; Ep 1:15; 4:2; 5:2,25,28,33; Phil 1:9; 1 Jo 3:16-17

iii. to one another

- within the church - Eph 1:5; 4:16; Phil 2:2; Col 2:2; 3:14; 1 Th 4:9; 2 Th 1:3; 1 Pe 1:22; 4:8
- “one another” used more than 30 time in NT
 - in positive and negative senses
 - love appears in them most often - 1 Thes 4:9; Ro 12:10; 13:8; 2 Th 1:3; 1 Pe 1:22; 1 Jo 3:11,23; 4:7,11; 2 Jo 5

iv. and to all,

- for the lost
- even those who would be their persecutors
- Jesus’ command - Love your enemies - Mt 5:44;
- other NT vs concerning “all people”
 - pursuing peace - Ro 12:18; doing good - Gal 6:10;
 - being patient - Eph 4:2; praying for - 1 Tim 2:1;
 - showing consideration—Tit 3:2; and honoring - 1 Pe 2:17

b. just as we do to you - their example - 1 Th 1:9; 2:1-2, 10-12

3. A Purifying Hope - vs 13

a. so that He may establish your hearts

i. establish - **sterizo** - to set fast, to turn resolutely in a certain direction, or to confirm:--fix, (e-)stablish, steadfastly set, strengthen.
 - Timothy was sent to do it in 3:2; God does it here & 2 Th 2:17; 3:3

ii. Only God knows the heart - 2Ch 6:30; Ps 44:21; Pro 24:12; Jer 17:10

iii. blameless in holiness before our God and Father

- blameless in holiness
 - positionally true,
 - but God is working on making it true in practice
- before - lit. in the presence of

b. at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

i. The hope (knowledge) of Christ’ return motivates Purity - 1 Jo 3:1-3
 - to judge (2 Co 5:10)
 - to reward (Mt 16:27; 1Co 3:14; Col 3:24)

ii. with all His saints

- 2nd Coming - Zec 14:5; Jd 14
- Rapture of the Church - 1Co 1:8; Php 1:10; 1Th 5:23;