

My Prayer for You

2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

With the Apostle Paul, my prayer for you is . . .

- I. A prayer that you may _____ God's _____ (16a)
 - A. _____ peace (Col 1:20; Rom 5:1)
 - B. _____ peace (Jn 14:27; Phil 4:6-7; Is 26:3)
- II. A prayer that you may be _____ by God's _____ (16b; Ps 46:1; Is 41:10; Eph 3:14-21)
- III. A prayer that you may _____ God's _____ (17)
- IV. A prayer that you may _____ in God's _____ (18)
 - A. _____ and _____ are both works of God's grace (Eph 2:8; Phil 2:13).
 - B. _____ and _____ are both enemies of God's grace.

[It has been said] that grace is the balance point between legalism on the one hand and licentiousness on the other, but that is not true. Legalism and licentiousness are flip sides of the same coin, because both are manifestations of the flesh. God's grace operates through the Holy Spirit, changing our hearts, giving us the desire to please and obey Him. Jesus Christ is *the Lord* Jesus Christ, so His grace is not opposed to submitting to His lordship over every area of your life. God's grace does not give us the freedom to sin (Rom. 6:1); rather, it frees us from sin (Rom. 6:14).

- Steven J. Cole