

Series: Hebrews

Lesson # 76

Title: Pray For Us

Scripture: Hebrews 13: 18, 19

Date: 4-19-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, New Jersey

**Hebrews 13: 18: Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. 19: But I beseech *you* the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.**

It is important to connect this verse with the one before it. Last time we saw that the brethren were exhorted to obey from the heart and submit outwardly to them that had the rule over them.

**V18: We trust we have a good conscience-- in all things willing to live honestly.**

We trust that from a heart of obedience, that in all things, we are willing to submit outwardly to whatever God would have us to do.

**V19: But we beseech you the rather to do this, that we may be restored to you the sooner.**

It appears that Paul is saying: We trust our conscience is pure in God's sight that we are willing to submit outwardly to whatever God will have us to do. We beseech you to pray, not for this, but rather that we may be restored with the fullness of his grace so that we can make a straight course in submitting to him.

Remember when Paul set out on his second trip to preach the gospel. He was forbidden to go where he first intended to go. Then the Lord showed him a vision of man praying him to come over to help in Macedonia. **Acts 16: 10: And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. 11: Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course...**That is the thing I think Paul is asking them to pray for in this case--that he may "assuredly gather" and "make a straight course" by the Lord's will.

## **I. Manner**

**A. Notice that Paul says, If it be the Lord's will.**

Where does he say that? In this little word "may." Do you know the difference between "can" and "may?" You do not have to ask anyone, "Can" I do this or that--only you know if you have the ability to do it. But if there is someone in authority over you who must permit you to do a thing then you ask, "May" I do this or that....Paul knows that he is under the authority of Christ Jesus the Lord who has the rule over him. Therefore he says. "Pray for us; so that with assurance we if it be the Lord's will, we may, be restored to you with a straight course."

## II. Motive

A. Paul's motive was the glory of God, of God's Son, for Christ's church.

If you will go through scripture and study Paul's prayer requests you will find that Paul asked for one thing.

**Ephesians 6:19: And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

**Colossians 4:3: Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:**

**2 Thessalonians 3:1: Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:**

B. Motive and manner has everything to do with whether or not our petitions to God will come to pass.

If we are praying for what Paul is praying for then we always get what we ask. Paul's motive was the glory of God, of God's Son, for Christ's church--he was ready to preach the word of Christ. His manner was, if it be the Lord's will. In each of those prayer requests that you just read, you will find this same manner and motive in Paul. Let me show you another place.

**Romans 15:30: Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, (motive) and for the love of the Spirit, (motive) that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me; 31: That I may (manner) be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which *I have* for Jerusalem may (manner, if is the Lord's will, my service) be accepted of the saints; 32: That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed (motive) (five times Paul reminds them to pray, if it be the Lord's will.**

This word "RESTORED" teaches us that Paul ever needed Christ Jesus the Lord.

**Mark 8:25 After that he put *his* hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly. We read in another place, Gal 6: 1: Ye which are spiritual restore such a one... Nu 35:25 And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil.**

- Paul will be restored *by* Christ because Christ is our Help in time of need.
- Paul will be restored *in* Christ because Christ is our Bread and our Strength.
- Paul will be restored *for* Christ because Christ will be the message Paul brings to them--because Paul is bringing the gospel to them, when Paul is restored personally, it will be a restoring to the Hebrew brethren.

### **III. THE REASON WE PRAY--GOD WILL BE ENQUIRED OF FOR THESE THINGS.**

A. God requires us to ask him because then we are continually reminded that inward obedience and outward submission is something that only God can create within us.

**Ezekiel 36: 33: Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause *you* to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded...(And he gave great detail as to what he would do.) 37: Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet *for this* be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do *it* for them.**

The house of Israel did not know specifically what the Lord would do, so they could not ask God for those things in specific detail. But in everything he said he would do this is the sum: his will would be done, he would pour out grace upon his people, his name would be glorified, his saints saved from their enemies and edified and brought to rejoice only in him...this is what he made them realize they needed. This is what he always makes us to realize we need. Therefore he says, **Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet *for this* be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do *it* for them.**

**Illustration:** Your parents do this to you in your home. Sometimes you ask but instead of asking, you get a little full of yourself and your asking becomes a demand. When you do that your father corrects you. Most of the time by saying, "Ask me for that again." Because your parents will have you to realize and confess that only they can provide you what you need.

B. My prayer to God to bring you a word from God goes like this:

1. I pray for God to clear my mind before I even begin to look into his word
2. Then as I study, I get excited. But if I am not careful I will stop because I am so overwhelmed by what I have seen--so I have to ask God for focus to keep studying.
3. Then I get tired--so I have to ask the Lord to strengthen me to keep going.
4. Then once I have the message--I have to ask God to enable me to deliver it to you.
5. Then once I have delivered it to you--I have to ask God to keep me from being lifted up in pride so I can start over next week.

#### **Application:**

So I ask you, as Paul said to them, I trust that from a heart of obedience I am willing to submit outwardly to whatever God would have me to do for you, but I beseech you the rather to pray for me that if it be the Lord's will--he will restore me with the fullness of his grace--so that I might make a straight course to you with this gospel.

Remember the manner--Lord, if it be your will.

Remember the motive--Lord, that your name be glorified and your people be edified.

Remember the reason God will have us to ask him--God will be enquired of for this.