

1 THESSALONIANS 3:10-13 - The Apostle Paul Prayed For Them

2/18/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente

MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE – Ray Palmer; Dallas Choral

1. *My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine!*
2. *May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire! As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!*
3. *While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.*
4. *When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll; blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!*

Context/Biblical Background – The Word of God and prayer should go together. The Prophet Samuel said, “God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way” (1Sa_12:23). Peter said, “But we [the Apostles] will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word” (Act_6:4). Paul had this same emphasis: “And now, brethren, I commend you to God [prayer], and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up” (Act_20:32). Jesus prayed for His disciples, just as Paul prayed for the Thessalonian Church, that their faith would not fail (Luk.22:31-32).

[10] night and day praying exceedingly *that* we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith? - Chapter 1 prayer – faith, love, hope – Here again in Chapter 3 – faith, love, hope!

- ***Night and day praying exceedingly:*** Paul heard good news from Timothy, but it wasn't enough. He wanted to *see your face* of the church family in Thessalonica. Paul wanted it enough to pray ***night and day . . . exceedingly*** that God would make a way for him to see them.
- ***And perfect what is lacking in your faith:*** In the midst of all this joy, Paul called attention to the fact that they were still ***lacking***. Though the apostle repeatedly complimented them, he was also concerned to ***perfect (complete) what is lacking in your faith***.
- Paul's concern was not so much their safety or happiness, but their *faith*. The word “faith” is used five times in this chapter. Satan is the enemy of our faith, for if he can get us to doubt God and His Word, he will rob us of the enjoyment of every blessing we have in Christ.

[11] Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. - Paul's prayer for what is lacking in the Thessalonians. He was only able to teach them for a three Sabbath period. He then had to flee because of the persecution. Here we see his longing to be with them again!

- ***Now may our God and Father Himself:*** This shows Paul begins a passage of written prayer. He told the Thessalonians what he prayed for them.
- ***And our Lord Jesus Christ:*** “Two persons viewed as one. Joh 10:30 “*I and My Father are one.*”
- ***Direct our way to you:*** Paul was encouraged at the current state of the Thessalonians and by the fruit that Timothy's ministry had there. Yet he still prayed that God would ***direct*** his ***way*** to them.

[12] And may the Lord make you *increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,* - To make up what is lacking, they must ***increase and abound in love***. May God just really work in your life and may you abound in love toward all men and toward each other. Surely this is the true mark of Christianity. Jesus said, by this sign shall men know that you are My disciples that you love another.

- ***And may the Lord make you increase and about in love:*** This was not a loveless church, but they still had room to grown in love, because love is an essential mark of the Christian faith.
- ***Abound in love to one another and to all:*** Paul looked for them to show love ***to one another and to all***. This love *begins* in the family of God, but it must go beyond. Jesus told us that our love is small and shallow if we only love those who love us also (Mat_5:46-47).
- ***Just as we do to you:*** Paul daringly set himself as a standard of love to be emulated. We should live such Christian lives that we could tell young Christians, “Love other people just the way that I do.”

[13] so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. - To make up what is lacking, they needed **hearts** established in **holiness**.

- ***So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness:*** Paul knew that God wanted the Thessalonians to have their **hearts** established **blameless in holiness**. The idea behind **holiness** is to be set apart from the world and unto God. The genuinely *holy* person is separated *away from* the domination of sin and self and the world, and they are separated *to* God. This is the ultimate purpose, that our hearts may be established, without blame in holiness.
- ***Paul's third request was for holiness of life (1Th 3:13):*** Paul was reminded of Jesus' return, because nothing can encourage us to holiness like remembering that Jesus might come today.
- ***at the coming (second) of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. (hope!)***- Jesus Christ is coming again. Paul was only there for a short, but notice in his preaching that a major part of his teaching was concerning the return of Jesus Christ and His establishing of the kingdom of God. The imminence of the return—Jesus is coming back soon, at any time! He wants them to be ready for the Lord, when He comes! Ready by walking in holiness, walking in purity. That is one of the greatest incentives there is for purity in our Christian walk—Being ready! Remaining and keeping pure!

Summary: -

- ❖ Paul's prayer here, emphasized three things that are important for every Christian today:
- ❖ First, he prayed ***that their faith might mature (1Th 3:10)***.
- ❖ Paul's second request was ***that their love might abound***
- ❖ Paul's third request was for ***holiness of life (1Th 3:13)***.
- ❖ Paul wanted to see these people made perfect in faith; abounding in love, established in holiness at the coming of our Lord! (our **hope!**) — **faith, love, and hope!**

Pray Today For:

Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and proposed Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. Proposed Cabinet Members: Sec. of State – Rex Tillerson; Energy – Rick Perry; Interior – Ryan Zinke; Defense – James Mattis; Treasury – Steven Mnuchin; Attorney General – Jeff Sessions; HUD – Ben Carson; Commerce – Wilbur Ross; Health & Human Services – Tom Price; Education – Betsy DeVos; Trans. – Elaine Chou; U.N Ambassador – Nikki Haley; Labor – OPEN; Homeland Security – Gen. John Kelly; EPA – Scott Pruitt; Budget – Mick Mulvaney; SBA – Linda McMahon; Cabinet Level Officials: – Reince Priebus; Nat'l Security Advisor – OPEN; Chief Strategist – Stephen Bannon; White House Council – Donald McGahn; Counselor to Pres. – Kellyanne Conway; Press Sec. Sean Spicer; Agriculture – Sonny Perdue; Vet. Affairs – Donald Shulkin; C.I.A. Director – Mike Pompeo; Amb. to Israel – David Friedman; Nat Econ Council Dir. – Gary Cohn; Nat. Intell. – Dan Coats; US Trade Rep. – Robert Lighthizer; Sr. Adv. to Pres. – Jared Kushner; Homeland Sec. Adv. – Thomas Bossert; Spec. Adv. Reg. Reform – Carl Icahn; Dir. Trade Policy – Peter Navarro; Cyber Security – Rudy Giuliani

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