

2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17 *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, [17] comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

3/25/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente

HOW DEEP THE FATHER’S LOVE FOR US – Stuart Townsend

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure, That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss - The Father turns His face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory.

*Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders; Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life - I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom; But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart - His wounds have paid my ransom.*

Paul has been reminding them of Jesus’ second coming and of the rapture of the church. He warns them and exhorts them to “stand fast”: **2 Th. 2:1-15**

2Th 2:16-17 *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us*

- Before Paul asked God to do something specific for the Thessalonians, he remembered all God had done for them. God has loved them, and gave them everlasting consolation and good hope by grace.
- In our intercession and petition, we do well to remember God’s past faithfulness and present blessing. His faithfulness in the past is a promise of His faithfulness for the future.

and given us everlasting consolation (*paraklesis* – lifting of another’s spirits, **everlasting inexhaustible comfort**) ***and good*** (*agathos* – pertaining to meeting a high standard of worth and merit) ***hope by grace*** (a free grace gift of His: and it may be called a good one),

- God is the author of it; and it is built on a good foundation, the person, blood, and righteousness of Christ; and is of good things to come, and therefore called the blessed hope; and is **what is sure and certain**, and will never deceive, nor make ashamed

[17] comfort (*parakaleo* – to instill someone with courage or cheer, comfort, **encourage**, cheer up) - ***your hearts and establish*** (*sterizo* – to cause to be inwardly firm or committed, confirm establish, strengthen someone in something)

- ***2Cor. 1:3-5*** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,[4] who comforts us in all our tribulation* (pressures), *that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.[5] For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.*
- *Comfort your hearts and establish you:* Paul asked God to do two things in the Thessalonian Christians. **First, he wanted God to comfort their hearts in every good word and work**
- Second, **he asked God to establish them in every good word and work.** This prayer for comfort and continued testimony and work for Jesus is fitting in light of the special needs of believers under pressure.
- Paul was concerned about two aspects of their Christian life: **their word and their work**, their saying and their doing. If our walk contradicts our words, we lose our testimony. **Our “walk” and our “talk” must agree;** good works and good words must come from the same yielded heart.

- We are not saved by good works (*Eph. 2:8-10; Tit. 3:3-7*); but **good works are the evidence of salvation** (*Tit. 2:11-15*). It is not enough to depend on good words; the words must be backed up by the deeds (*1John 3:18*). It must be a steady practice, not an occasional one. We must be established in our words and works. How is this possible? Only God can do it by His grace; and this is what Paul desired for his friends.
- It is God who establishes, **but He uses people to accomplish His work**. A great need in our churches is for Christians who will take time to establish the younger believers.

Summary: -

- **This is a prayer full of useful and important suggestions: Jesus is ours; God is our Father; God has loved us; God has given us much; We have everlasting consolation; It is all through grace.**
- **Does the Father's and the Son's everlasting, inexhaustible comfort ever run out?**
- **Is it ever used up and there is no more?**
- **Are you fully receiving in your heart His comfort today and every day forever?**
- **Do you allow Him to establish you in every good word and work?**

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. 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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