

PRAY FOR US
(2 Thessalonians 3:1-2)

I. The persons for whom we should pray.

- A. Paul starts with the word “finally.”
 - 1. This does not mean it is the last thing that he has to say as we would use it.
 - 2. Literally, it ties it to the last verses of chapter 2.
 - 3. Furthermore, Paul says, not only find comfort and strength for yourselves, but pray for us as well.
 - 4. Some of those good words for which they would need strength should be used to form prayers for Paul and his company.
- B. Pray for us is his command and the tense in which it is written indicates that you do it and keep on doing it.
 - 1. We can't pray for Paul, Timothy, Silas, Luke and others that traveled with Paul today.
 - 2. We can pray for those that proclaim the gospel and we should.
- C. We need to be praying for missionaries, both foreign and domestic.
 - 1. These brethren give years of their lives and their families to take the gospel to places where the Lord's church is either very small or nonexistent.
 - 2. Some of them risk their lives in the work of the kingdom.
- D. I remember talking with br. Johnny Ramsey, a few years ago, and him talking about doing mission work.
 - 1. He talked about how he had to drive at least an hour away to meet with any other gospel preacher.
 - 2. He mentioned how lonely it could be.
- E. These brethren, and their spouses if married, are doing wonderful things for the Lord's kingdom and are deserving of our prayers.
- F. The local ministers need your prayers.
 - 1. I have never spoken with another preacher who said they didn't want members praying for them.
 - 2. There is a lot on the plate of any minister and prayers serve as an encouragement to do the work of an evangelist.
- G. Those who engage in private home studies, prison ministries and other such works all need the prayers of faithful brethren.
- H. The “us” for whom Paul asks them to pray are those laboring in the fields of the gospel.

II. The purpose of the prayer.

- A. Why should we be praying for these brethren?
- B. We should pray that the gospel be unobstructed.
 - 1. The KJV says “free course.”
 - 2. It literally means “run.”
 - 3. Paul asks them to pray that the gospel may be spread with the speed of a runner running in a race.
 - 4. The only way this can be done is if there are no obstructions.

5. If the obstructions of worldliness, denominationalism, hate, unbelief and others, were removed, the gospel would spread like wildfire.
 6. Paul knew that these would never be completely eradicated.
 7. However, we can ask that as many as possible be removed so the gospel can spread more quickly.
- C. We should pray that the gospel be believed.
1. Paul uses the word “glorified.”
 2. It means honored or praised and the tense of this indicates continual action.
 3. No one who doesn’t believe in the gospel will honor or glorify it.
 4. Notice that Paul said “as it is with you.”
 5. The Thessalonians honored and glorified the gospel when they were obedient to it.
 6. We honor and praise the gospel whenever we are obedient.
 7. We need to be praying for the lost, that they will be obedient to the gospel.
- D. We should pray that those preaching the gospel may be delivered out of any danger.
1. Sadly, there are those who would rather hurt as to hear a person preaching the gospel.
 2. T.B. Larrimore, a restoration preacher, told of a man whose wife was coming to hear him preach the gospel, come to the meeting with a gun.
 3. Other preachers have told about violent people seeking to break up meetings so the gospel couldn’t be heard.
 4. There are lands today in which people are imprisoned or killed for preaching or obeying God’s word.
 5. We need to pray that all those who are preaching the gospel will be taken out of harm so that they can continue to preach the gospel.

III. The problem in the world.

- A. The last phrase is the main problem that preachers of the gospel have.
- B. Not all men are willing to be faithful to God’s word.
 1. This word translated faith carries the idea of fidelity to God’s word.
 2. There are many who have no desire to be faithful to God’s word.
- C. These are the wicked and unreasonable men of the first phrase.
- D. These people don’t like God’s word because it shines a light on their evil deeds.
 1. They want the darkness of sin around them so as not to point out their evil.
 2. It is much easier to do evil in the dark, where others may not view it as such, than to have the light of the truth shone on them.
- E. These people come in all forms.
 1. Some are overtly wicked and don’t care to be anything but wicked.
 2. Some are trying to put on appearances as being pious and holy to cover up the evil they are doing behind the scenes.
 3. Some are ignorant of the truth and like it to be that way.