

“Pray For Us”
2 Thessalonians 3:1-5
9/28/25
Message 4

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Pray For Us”

• Review

- **Last Time - Stand Fast In An Evil World**

- **Stand Fast in Your Salvation vv. 13-14**

- Remember WHO and WHAT you ARE IN CHRIST
 - Your Loved
 - Your Saved
 - Your Sanctified
 - Your Called by His Gospel
 - You will Share in Christ’s Glory

- **Stand Fast and Hold the Traditions vv. 15-17**

- The Word
 - The ONLY Anchor for our Souls!!!
 - God’s Word enables us to stand fast under the weight of our present tribulation
- Hold TIGHT
 - Hold = A tight grip – not careless or casual – but a strong powerful death grip

- **Stand Fast by Putting on the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:13)**

- So What do we do

- 1. Understand the Reality and the Battle were in
 - So many Pastors / Christians still can't see the battle
- 2. Love our Enemies
 - Do Good to them – Bless them
- 3. Pray – NOW
 - Prayer Is Our Greatest Weapon
- 4. Engage this world with the Gospel – Truth
 - Today, tomorrow & forever
- 5. Be Encouraged
 - We have already WON
 - I really believe this could be the TURNING POINT in our nation
- 6. KEEP STANDING
 - In Christ, His Word
 - Christ has already given us the POWER to do so
- 7. KEEP your ARMOR on

- **Stand Fast by Staying Active (1 Corinthians 15:58)**

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- Keep GROWING & GOING Forward

- **Now This Morning**

- The Prayer Request v. 1
- The Plea That The Word of God May Run Swiftly v. 1b
- The Problem Is Satan Will Always Oppose v. 2
- The Promise Of God To Be Faithfull vv. 3-5

The Prayer Request v. 1

- **1. Finally, brethren, pray for us v. 1**

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,

- **1. Paul Constantly asked Christians to PRAY for him**
 - (Romans 15:30, 2 Corinthians 1:11, Ephesians 6:18-19, Philippians 1:19, Colossians 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:25, and Philemon 1:22)
 - Paul knew that the success of his ministry in Some measure depended on the prayers of God's people!

- **2. Application**

- **1. Notice what he asks prayer for?! – PRAYER**
 - **He Doesn't say...**
 - Pray for our...
 - Programs
 - Projects
 - **He says...**
 - Pray for our PREACHING

- Pray that the Word Runs Swiftly – Unhindered
- **The Word of God is MOST IMPORTANT Focus We must have**
 - This is why we spend so much time on the WORD here at Calvary CP
 - 20-hours a week studying for each message
 - No Sermonettes here...
 - Both Old & New Testament taught
 - Spend lots of time READING His Word
 - 4 Studies a Week
 - Wednesday
 - Friday
 - Saturday
 - Sunday
 - This is what I have always Loved about Calvary's
 - Focus On His Word
- **2. Pressure Today to Entertain**
 - **Sadly - Today There is a lot of Pressure to Entertain**
 - There is an increasing amount of pressure to do something ANYTHING just FILL the seats and keep them filled
 - In the past I have gotten advertisement for Church Seminars
 - Ways to attract...

- Step to guarantee growth...
 - How to make your church a seeker friendly church...
 - On how we need to make our services more entertaining...
 - Illustration
 - Willow Creek Model / Explain “Seeker Friendly”
- So we see churches working very hard to make “church” acceptable to Non - Believers
 - Programs
 - Projects
 - Entertainment
 - Shorter Sermons – (30 minutes or less)
 - Less Doctrine – More social info
 - All kinds of ways to get people in the door
- **The PROBLEM**
 - Many people Want Salvation
 - BUT they Don’t Want DISCIPLESHIP
 - This is not a NEW Problem, BEEN going on for years
 - *Charles Spurgeon has a sermon titled, “Feeding Sheep or Amusing Goats?”*

- Wanting to be entertained is a mark that a person is not mature in Christ
 - Great devotion from Tozer - “Heart Health Food or Just Tasty Snacks”
 - *“One of the surest evidences of intellectual immaturity is the desire to startle people. Yet there are Christians who have been fed upon the odd, the strange and the curious so long and so exclusively that they have become wholly unfitted spiritually to receive or to appreciate sound doctrine. They live to be startled by something new or thrilled by something wonderful. They will believe anything so long as it is just a little away from the time-honored beliefs of sober Christian men. A serious discourse calling for repentance, humbleness of mind, and holiness of life is impatiently dismissed as old-fashioned, dull, and lacking in “audience appeal.” Yet these things are just the ones that rank highest on the list of things we need to hear, and by them we shall be judged in that great day of Christ. A church fed on excitement is no New Testament church at all. The desire for surface stimulation is a sure mark of the fallen nature, the very thing Christ died to deliver us from. A curious crowd of baptized “worldlings” waiting each Sunday for the quasi-religious needle to give them a lift bears no relation whatsoever to a true assembly of Christian believers. That its members protest their undying faith in the Bible does not change things any. “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”*

- **3. The ROLE of The Church**

▪ **What makes a Successful Church?**

- Is it large numbers?
- Biggest CM / Youth?
- Outreach?
- Large, Nice Building?

▪ **A Successful Church Makes Disciples / Equips The Saints / Preaches the Word**

- I know it's Not
 - Flashy
 - Hip
 - Cool in today's modern world
- A Successful church makes Disciples
 - Jesus Commissioned us – Feed my sheep – NOT entertain the goats

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

- Jesus said
 - “Feed My Sheep” (John 21)
- Called to preach and teach the Word equip the saints for the work of the ministry

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

- Prepares the church for the world they live in
 - Expand = The Culture / Politics / The Battle
 - A need to understand this world through the lens of the Bible
 - We will NEVER avoid any TOPIC here
 - We will Expose Evil
 - We will Look at our world the way it is
 - Pray for God's Wisdom
 - **4. So Paul Prays - That the Word would run swiftly**

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (CSB)

1 In addition, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you,

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (ESV)

1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (KJV 1900)

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:

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (NASB 95)

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you;

- **Run Swiftly**

- Horses running thru a field – free

- Swift – Horse in full gallop – glides
- A Mighty River
 - Going for miles – unhindered
- Let it go forth powerfully – unhindered – effective
- **That is the Lord's desire for His Word in this...**
 - Community
 - Church
 - Our Families
 - Our Lives
- **5. Our PART**
 - **PRAYER**
 - Prayer is something that every believer can engage in.
 - Pray that the Word would be able to run swiftly in all those areas
 - Every work of God must have prayer behind it if it is to succeed.
 - Pray (Matt. 6:10-13)
 - "P" Praise:
 - Hallowed be the Name
 - Our Father in heaven for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.

- “R” Repent:
 - Confess your sins
 - Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us
- “A” Ask:
 - For needs of others and yes even ourselves
 - Give us this day our daily bread; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one
- “Y” Yield:
 - It’s ALL His / Yield yourself to Him
 - Thy kingdom Come, Thy will be done (on earth as it is in heaven)

▪ **Illustration**

- God did a mighty work in London thru a giant of the faith named Charles Haddon Spurgeon.
 - The Church sat 7,000 people – (packed out several times each week.
 - His sermons are studied to this day.
- The story is told that one Sunday afternoon
 - A contingency of ministers came to the massive Metropolitan Tabernacle to observe him.
 - Assuming the stout man at the side of the building wearing bib overalls to be the janitor, they asked, "Sir, would you kindly show us the power plant of this huge structure?"

- "Certainly," the man replied, leading them to the basement.
- As he opened the door at the end of a hallway, the ministers expected to see a mighty furnace.
- Instead, they saw over two hundred men on their knees praying on Sunday afternoon for the upcoming evening service.
- "Prayer, gentlemen," he said, "is the power plant of the Metropolitan Tabernacle."
- The man in the overalls was Spurgeon himself—and he knew where the power for that ministry came from.
- Spurgeon realized that the key to his preaching was that there was a group of people committed to praying for the Ministry.

▪ **We have a Basement here...**

- Wednesday Night = Men praying
- Sunday Morning = All Church Prayer Meeting
- Prayer requests every week to all the leaders and their wives

▪ **Congregations = Pray for your Pastors**

- Been said that great Pastors make for Great Congregations –
 - I disagree –
 - I think that great Congregations –
 - Make good Preachers and Pastors –

The Plea That The Word of God May Run Swiftly v. 1b

- **1. That the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified v.1b**

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,

- **1. The Word can run freely, without any hindrance AND BE GLORIFIED**

- Pray that God's Word Runs unhindered and moves in the hearts of all people
- And Be GLORIFIED

- **2. Question: At what pace is the Word moving in your life?**

- Snail
- Turtle
- Rabbit
- OR Is moving freely swiftly –

- Making an impact or is it being hindered?

- **3. Things that HINDER the WORD in our lives**

- **1. Neglect**

- When we are not giving time for the Word

- The Bible just sits on the shelf...

- If we do read the Bible

- We read as if checking it off the list / no opportunity for it to work

- Contrast: Psalm 1:2-3

Psalm 1:1–3 (NKJV)

1 *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;*
2 *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.*
3 *He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.*

- 1. Delights in the Law (Word)
 - Do you delight in His Word?
 - Love His Word?
 - Is it a friend?
- 2. Meditates:
 - Are we spending time thinking about the Word
 - Encourage you take time aside to be in the Word, don't rush through it
 - You might say, I don't have the time, I would say you can't afford not to find the time...
- 3. Planted by water – Refreshed
 - DID YOU KNOW?
 - 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated.
 - In 37% of Americans, the thirst mechanism is so weak it is often mistaken for hunger.
 - Lack of water, is the #1 trigger of daytime fatigue.

- A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory.
- Drinking 5 glasses of water daily, decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and the risk of bladder cancer by 50%
- Just like water is essential for our physical health –
- So too the Word is the same way: Refreshed
- 4. The Promise
 - That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.
 - Seek God first He will take care of your needs!!!

▪ 2. Unbelief

- Israel missed out Because of unbelief
 - The Book of Hebrews talks about how the people of Israel missed out on God's blessing
 - WHY? Unbelief

Hosea 4:6 (NKJV)

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

- God had so much in store for them as a people – they missed out – Didn't believe God's word
 - The Promise Land

- Only Joshua and Caleb believed...
- How About Us? What are we missing out on?!
 - Do we BELIEVE?!
 - Do we hold fast to every Word?!
 - Are We TRUSTING HIM
- **3. Distractions**
 - Parable of the Sower...
 - Seed hindered by the distractions of this life
 - Distracted by...
 - Cares (Worries)
 - Entertainment
 - Money
 - Pleasure

- **4. Lack of Application**

- God's Word is meant to be put into practice –

James 1:22 (NKJV)

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- Not enough just to read – MUST do
- I know that when we apply the things we are studying
 - GOD WILL WORK MIGHTILY
 - Change this Church
 - Change our families
 - Change our marriages

- Change our community

The Problem Is Satan Will Always Oppose v. 2

- **1. That we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men v. 2**

2 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV)

2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

- **1. Satan will Always send his distracters**

- **Paul Prayer**

- He wanted God to either deliver him from such men
 - Or change them into reasonable and godly men.

- **2. Count on the Spiritual Battle**

- **The Modern Church has done a dis-service for Real Christianity**

- Telling them that they will prosper
 - That we won't suffer
 - Come to Christ and everything will be great / awesome

- **The Reality – A BATTLE**

- Come to Christ
 - Live for Christ
 - And YOU WILL SUFFER in the Spiritual Battle

- **3. The Enemies Play Book has Not Changed**

- With Paul
 - Headed to a Community
 - 1. Preached Christ
 - In the synagogues
 - Then Open Air / Public Square / (Collage Campus if you will)
 - Engaged the Culture RIGHT where the Culture WAS
 - 2. When Paul Started to Have Success
 - They Lied About him
 - Made up all kinds of accusations against him
 - Did Whatever they could to discredit his message
 - 3. When That Failed – Success was overflowing
 - Well Persecution – Death
- Today
 - NOTHING has Changed
 - They did the same to Charlie Kirk

The Promise Of God To Be Faithfull vv. 3-5

• 1. But the Lord is faithful v. 3

- **1. The Lord is Faithfull v. 3a**

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NKJV)

3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

- That is such a good thing to be reminded of!
- Listen to these great verses

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NKJV)

9 *“Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)

23 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

2 Timothy 2:13 (NKJV)

13 *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

- SO STAND STRONG
- Don't be afraid of MAN
- **2. He Will Establish You and Guard You v. 3b**

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NKJV)

3 *But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.*

- Establish –
 - Guard YOU

2. And we have confidence in the Lord vv. 4-5

- **1. Paul was also confident (in the Lord)**

2 Thessalonians 3:4 (NKJV)

4 *And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.*

- Confidence in GOD

- God is at work
 - BUT
 - - This shows that God's work of establishing and guarding us is done, in part, through His appeal to our will in obeying His Word.

- **2. Now May The Lord Direct you v. 5**

2 Thessalonians 3:5 (NKJV)

5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

- Love and Patience (endurance)
 - This is what is needed to for spiritual stability and strength

Closing

- May ALL continue to GROW in CHRIST