

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

2nd Thessalonians

Mar 2017

Model for Living: *Request for Prayer*

INTRODUCTION

What are some of the motivations for prayer?

EXPLORATION

*Note: The Thessalonians needed prayer for their temptations, but they also needed to **pray** for others. Assuming a burden of prayer for others lightens one's own load.*

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

1. How did Paul want to see the gospel received? v. 1
2. What prayer requests did Paul share with the Thessalonians? **Matt 13:19**
3. How could prayer help spread the message of the Lord?
4. How does our belief about God affect the way we pray? **Rom 3:3**
5. In what ways did Paul expect that his ministry could be enhanced because of the Thessalonians' prayer? vv. 1-2
6. What are some of the positive and negative reactions that preaching the Gospel produce?
7. How does prayer protect us? **Matt 6:13**
8. How does prayer change people or circumstances?
9. How did Paul describe God? v. 3
10. What will God do for people who are threatened by the evil one? **1 John 5:18**
11. What confidence did Paul have in the Christians at Thessalonica? v. 4
12. How did Paul remind his readers of the Lord's direction? v. 5
13. Why are men typically hesitant to ask for prayer for themselves?

APPLICATION

- For whom will you pray this week that their faith may be strengthened?
- What encouragement and ideas do these verses give you concerning your own prayer life?

A lady who had a small house on the seashore of Ireland at the turn of the century was quite wealthy but also quite frugal. The people were surprised, then, when she decided to be among the first to have electricity in her home. Several weeks after the installation, a meter reader appeared at her door. He asked if her electricity was working well, and she assured him it was. "I'm wondering if you can explain something to me," he said. "Your meter shows scarcely any usage. Are you using your power?" "Certainly," she answered. "Each evening when the sun sets, I turn on my lights just long enough to light my candles; then I turn them off." *She tapped into the power but didn't use it.* Her house was connected but not altered. Don't we make the same mistake? We, too—with our souls saved but our hearts unchanged – are connected but not altered. Trusting Christ for salvation but resisting transformation. We must seek prayer as though we mean it and be willing to obey the answers. "Have thine own way, Lord."

Pastor Steve Shepherd, Jonesboro Christian Church