



Edgemont Bible Church
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2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

April 23, 2017

Intro: Pastors truly are involved with what they do because of the call that God has on their life. Their desire is that what God has shown, is showing them, that they would be able to pass that life-giving message on to others. This of course includes the Gospel being the power of God unto salvation, but includes the rest of the council of God so that we may be saved in practice as well as position (Acts 20:27-28). The Scripture is clear as to the requirements for the shepherd - 1 Tim 3:1-7:4:6-11; 2 Tim 3:16-4:5; Tit 1:5-9; 1 Pet 5:1-4; Heb 13:7,17. The Scripture is also clear as to the duties and responsibilities Christians have to their pastors. In 1 Thess 5:12-13 teaches that we are to appreciate those who labor among you and esteem them very highly in love. Heb 13:17 teaches that we are to obey those who rule over you, and be submissive. Here, Paul sets forth four desires he had for the Thessalonians as their Pastor.

VI. What the Pastor Desires From His People – 2 Th 3:1-5

A. Their Prayers - vs 1-2

1. Paul's dependence

a. Not on his ability and training

- i. Acts 22:3b but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law,
- ii. Ga 1:14a And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation,
- iii. Acts 23:6 I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee;
- iv. Acts 26:5 that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.
- v. Php 3:5b concerning the law, a Pharisee;
- vi. Ga 1:12 For I neither received it (*the gospel which was preached by me*) from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

b. his sufficiency is found in Christ

- i. 2Co 3:4-6a And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant,
- ii. 2Co 10:12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.
- iii. 2Co 10:17-18 But "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD." For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

2. Finally, brethren, - statement of transition - change of subject - Phil 3:1; 1 Th 4:1

3. pray for us,

a. **proseuchomai**

- i. to pray to God, supplicate, worship:--pray earnestly, for,
- ii. Present tense - continually pray or have as a consistent pattern of their lives - 1 Th 5:17

b. For us - 1Th 5:25

- i. **peri** - about, concerning, with reference to
- ii. Remember our needs

c. The first request – the success of the message

i. that the word of the Lord

- used in the OT and NT for divine revelation – Ge 1:1,4; Num 3:16; 36:5; Deut 5:5; Josh 8:8; 1 Sam 3:7,21; 1 Kgs 6:11; 12:24; 2 Kgs 7:1; 1 Chr 11:3; Ez 1:1; Ps 18:30; Isa 1:10; Jer 1:4; Dan 9:2; Hos 4:1; Mal 1:1; Acts 11:16; 1 Pe 1:2
- the NT writers mostly used it for the Gospel – Acts 8:14,25; 13:5,44,46,48-49; 15:35-36; 16:32; 19:10,20
- comes first as the good news of salvation

ii. may run swiftly - Eph 6:19; Col 4:3;

- **Trecho** - to run or walk hastily, have course, run.
- Paul's desire was that word would move forward unobstructed

iii. and be glorified,

- **Doxazo** - to render (or esteem) glorious, (make) glorify (-ious), full of (have) glory, honour, magnify.
- Paul's desire was that word would be received with proper respect

iv. just as it is with you,

- Acts 13:44-49 though there would always be people like the Jews at Pisidian Antioch, Paul wanted people to receive the gospel like the Gentiles there.
- Paul's desire was that the same kind of thing that happened with the Thessalonians would happen to others

d. The second request

i. safety for the gospel messengers - and that we may be delivered from - Ro 15:31

- unreasonable – **atopos** - out of place, improper, injurious, wicked:--amiss, harm, unreasonable.
- and wicked men; - **poneros** – malignant, aggressively wicked
- Paul was accustomed to hostility against him for the Gospel's sake - 2Co 4:7-10; 11:22-33; Php 1:19-30; 3:7-14

- His desire was that God would protect so that the Gospel could be preached so that others could hear - 2Co 1:8-10

ii. for not all have faith. - Ac 28:24; Ro 10:16;

- The Thessalonians had received the Gospel so easily, they might have thought that was the norm

- more likely - Not everyone believes

B. Pastors Desire that Their People Trust in the Lord - vs 3

1. But the Lord is faithful,

a. Paul was confident in God's faithfulness - Phil 1:6

b. Paul had seen God's faithfulness in his own life

2Ti 4:16-18 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

c. 1Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

2. who will establish you - 1Th 5:24;

a. **sterizo** - to set fast, to turn resolutely in a certain direction, or to confirm: --fix, (e-)stablish, stedfastly set, strengthen.

b. strengthening on the inside

3. and guard you

a. **phulasso** - to watch, be on guard, to preserve, obey, avoid, keep (self), observe, save.

b. protecting from the outside

4. from the evil one. - 2Pe 2:9

a. most likely a reference to Satan

b. The Lord delivers us by

i. Giving internal spiritual strength - 2 Co 4:16; Eph 3:16

ii. Shielding us from external attacks - Eph 6:16

iii. Keeping us from stumbling - Jd 24

C. Their Obedience to What is Taught - vs 4

1. And we have confidence - 2Co 7:16

a. in the Lord - Ga 5:10

b. concerning you,

i. 1 Th 1:3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

ii. 1Th 1:6-8 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy

Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

iii. 1Th 3:12-13 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 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.

iv. 1Th 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

2. That which brings joy to Pastors

a. a continued pattern of obedience - both that you do

b. a confidence because of past action - and will do the things we command you.

D. Pastors Desire that Their People Grow Spiritually - vs 5

1. Paul's anticipation of the best of the Thessalonians because of

a. Paul's confidence in God's faithfulness to His elect

b. Paul's confidence in their delight to obeying God's commands

2. Paul's desired result and the medium to get there

a. Now may the Lord direct your hearts

i. **kateuthuno** - to straighten fully, guide, direct.

ii. Used in 1 Th 3:11 - direct our way to you - used in the sense of removing all obstacles and hindrances in the path

iii. Paul wanted that God would clear the way so their hearts would move toward the desired result

b. into the love of God

i. can mean "into God's love"

ii. can mean the believer's love of God

iii. Sometimes ambiguity is used to give the full sense

c. and into the patience of Christ.

i. **hupomone** - cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy, enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

ii. As we mature we experience strength to be more like Christ, even in the area of patience considering how Christ has been patient with us