

II Thess. 2: 16, 17



Paul's Prayers For The  
Thessalonian Christians

SUBJECT: The Gifts of God

(GF)

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Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians & c.

THE GIFTS OF GOD

The Thessalonian church much persecuted, afflicted. <sup>Paul left</sup> they had to stay.  
On the outside - political, economic, social condemnation.

On the inside, as though not troubled enough, led-headed teachers  
with ground prophesying, quoting Paul as ready specimen letter from him,  
that the dark day of tribulation is here now (2:2). (What a tragedy,  
this: the blessed, bright hope, need to stand the faith, death, &  
the saints. Evidence of the return power of evil.)

Confused, misled, some had ceased from work (3: 6, 10-12).  
Employed with mysterious rumors, opposition, ceased from service,  
acknowledging it was to go on...

IN ANSWER:

They are to work. We ought to do our work better - perhaps the  
will come and find us at it.

The dark days of tribulation, remainder of the century, are coming  
(though they were not in those times), as this leads to the sublime  
prayer of Paul in this behalf. (2: 17, 14, 16, 17)

1. The address

"Our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father..."

His prayer is singularly emphatic - ↑  
Christ and God - John 1: 18. 2: 13 "the Spirit" the blessed Trinity

"Our" not "the" Our Lord  
Our Father which sits in heaven...

2. The ascription

- (1) "hath loved us"  
Not "he pitied us" that true - Is. 103:13,14  
Not "he had mercy upon us" that true.  
Not "benevolent toward us" that true  
But "loved us" - that beyond all else or just beyond stone  
a groom toward his bride  
a mother toward her child  
can never be described; only felt  
" - - - returned; more learned from a dictionary  
the Nomenclature of Job is I ps. 3:1 "Bless, what name."

"hath" not tell us when began. Could not  
when we were lost, a rebel, estranged  
before we were born, or we had being  
before the day. Some peculiar as the first morning  
before the day of the angels covered this fact, which is recurrent  
2:13 "from the beginning"

"no" can imagine God's love to <sup>prophets</sup>  
<sup>apostles</sup>  
<sup>early saints</sup>  
<sup>martirs</sup>  
<sup>holy men of his people</sup>  
but "us". "who love me as your being for me"

The foregoing source all God's <sup>choices</sup> dealings with us  
His eternal purpose to save & glorify for his glory (2:14).  
The Scriptures ascribe this to God's love. The attributes of  
divine wisdom, justice, power, never account for  
redemption.

(2) "hath given us everlasting consolation & pardons, forgiveness, saved, kept forever."

Forgiveness in all our transgressions - not for when Christ died  
- wonderful mystery of substitution  
- in reputation, consolation / forgiveness

Sit his love upon us, which never changes. Promises not  
depend upon our faithfulness but are established in Christ.  
Our salvation not depend upon us but upon Christ. Not  
as creature saved, but as God's love upon us.

Directs all things for our good. Rom. 8:28

"I sleep in dust & ground, yet in 7 feet are 140 yd 19:26  
not least in importance. with us."

(3) "and good hope through grace"  
consolation for the present, hope for the future

When day, year shall pass shall meet in heavenly  
whatsoever pleasure we wish. full of bliss for us. <sup>with us</sup>  
immortality for our resurrection for bodies rising with Christ  
do with Him as He is in heaven - His glory is in heaven

"through grace"  $\epsilon\upsilon \chi\alpha\rho\iota\tau\epsilon$  of hope in our merit.  
strength, not self-derived. But our hope begins in  
grace alone. Here our faith, assurance. God as good as His  
name, to the belief that we are saved. Some believe hopes  
flit. Their hope: if behave themselves well, hope to go to  
heaven. But we: our Father's love is unconditional: to rejoice  
in His name, to be His people. Why visit us with the rod but  
never to punish; for participation but never demand;  
which we have had in still. Such a relationship never change.

"in grace" not to "in Christ" - a greater phrase in the Bible.  
From the grace, the all hope begins. Right may merit  
damnation. Every blessing to a conditional sinners because?  
love, grace, the. with a merit of our works. If built upon  
our works, merit, our hope shall be buttressed by a dream.  
Pass away with merit that produces it. But "in grace"  
never change no more than God's love in grace can  
vary. It changed not; the same yesterday, today, forever.



(4) Described as a gift: "that gives"  
 We, not, say words to our little children. Just gift of love, what  
 father & mother to be paid for what he does for son, daughter?  
 Every blessing we receive from God, & more as a gift. We have  
 purchased nothing, earned nothing. God's grace toward us -  
 absolutely free, spontaneous gift of mercy, covering grace.  
 (5) The Holy Trinity

3. The aspiration: "comfort you and  
 that God will comfort you in every good word and work"

(1) The very atmosphere in which we live our lives, or  
 of calm, peace, mind and heart, comfort of spirit. No  
 depression, pain. God love us just for us, will see us through  
 (2) The Sacred Heart School movement - classes for football, hockey, volleyball,  
 but the teaching runs for the love of the individual child. Chicago C.C. Miller was one  
 of the first, started down by St. Ignace - a great & more advantage than money, things.

(2) The fruit of our faith, life = every good word and work  
 So I Cor. 15: 58