

# Paul Prayed

## 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Luke 21:25-36

Colossians 1:1-14



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### Paul (2 Thessalonians 1:1)

- We are **commanded** to imitate Paul as he imitated Christ. (1 Cor 11:1)
- Before Christ found him. . . 1 Timothy 1:13; Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; 22:3-4; 26:9-1; Galatians 1:13.
- When Christ found him . . . Acts 9:3-6; 22:6-22; 26:12-18
- After Christ found him . . . Acts 20:22-24; Philippians 1:20-23
- Paul view of himself . . .
  - ✗ (Philippians 3:4-6) His old view of himself.
    - (1 Corinthians 15:9) Least of the Apostles.
    - (Ephesians 3:8) Less than the least of all saints.
    - (1 Timothy 1:15) Chief of sinners.
    - (1 Timothy 1:16) One who received grace and mercy from God.
- Paul, a disciple of Christ . . . (Luke 9:23)
  - Denied himself - Philippians 3:8-11; 2:5-8; Luke 14:33.
  - Took up his cross - (2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Acts 14:19-20)
  - Followed/Imitated Christ - a true disciple of Christ.
    - ☆ **D**esire - (Romans 10:1; 9:1-3; 15:20-21)
    - ☆ **D**etermination - (Romans 15:24-28; Acts 20:22-24)
    - ☆ **D**iscipline - (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
    - ☆ **D**iligence - (Philippians 3:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28)
    - ☆ **D**o - (1 Corinthians 15:10)

### Paul Prayed for Saints

- We must imitate Paul in OUR prayers for each others.
  - Paul commanded us to pray.
  - Paul taught us to pray.
  - Paul gave us an example to follow.
- Paul's objective in his prayers was that God be glorified!
- Paul's prayers were GOD-CENTERED; not man-centered.
- Prayerlessness (little prayer) is great sin. Prayerlessness is say, "God, I do not need you."

- PAUL PRAYED FOR SAINTS.
  - ★ SAINTS **NEED** PRAYER.
  - ★ SAINTS NEED TO PRAY FOR SAINTS.
  - ★ SAINTS NEED THE PRAYERS OF OTHER SAINTS.
- What did Paul NOT pray for . . .
  - Temporal physical needs - his or theirs!
  - Healing of diseases, employment, careers, etc.
  - That tribulation, troubles, trials, and persecutions stop.
    - ★ Part of being a Christian. (John 15:18-20; Philip 1:29; Acts 14:22)
    - ★ Appointed/Will of God (1 Peter 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4)
    - ★ Our faith is REFINED and GROWS in the midst of various trials. (1 Peter 1:6-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:5)
    - ★ Trials produce perseverance, character, and hope. (Rom 5:3)
- What did Paul pray for?

### Paul Prayed for the Saints at Colossae (Colossians 1:9-14)

- How did Paul KNOW that the saints at Colossae were genuine saints?
  - ① They were FAITHFUL. (Colossians 1:2)
  - ② He **heard** of their faith in Christ Jesus. (Colossians 1:4)
  - ③ He **heard** of their love for **all** the saints. (Colossians 1:4)
- What did Paul pray for
  - ① (v. 9) That the saints would be FILLED with the KNOWLEDGE of God's will.
    - IN ORDER THAT . . .
      - ① (v. 10) Their walk (how they lived) may be worthy of the Lord.
      - ② (v. 10) They would be FULLY pleasing to God.
      - ③ (v. 10) They be FRUITFUL in EVERY good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
      - ④ (v. 10) They INCREASE/GROW in the knowledge of God.
  - ② (v. 11) That they be strengthened with ALL might, according to God's own glorious power.
    - IN ORDER THAT . . .
      - ① They ENDURE (ὑπομονή hypomone).
      - ② They be LONG-SUFFERING with each other and others.
      - ③ And both with JOY.
  - ③ (vv. 12-14) Giving thanks to God.

### Paul Prayed for the Saints at Thessalonica (2 Thess 1:11-12)

- Paul prayed **always** . . . (Luke 18:1; 21:32-36; Acts 2:42; 10:2; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2, 12; Philippians 4:6; 1 Thess 5:17-18; Psalm 55:17-19)
  - Paul's example: 2 Timothy 1:3; Romans 1:9; Ephesians 1:16-19; Philippians 1:4, 9-11; Colossians 1:9-13

- ☆ The example of Epaphras in Colossians 4:12-13.
- Paul prayed for the saints at Thessalonica! Saints who he knew . . .
  - Had a **working** faith. A faith that did what God commanded. (1 Thessalonians 1:3; James 2:14-26)
    - ★ that their faith was growing exceedingly.
  - Labored in love. The loved in truth and deed and not only in word! (1 John 3:16-18)
    - ★ “labor” is κόπος kopos {kop'-os} meaning “intense labor united with trouble and toil”.
    - ★ Their love cost them! Theirs was a sacrificial love.
  - Were enduring despite great tribulations and trouble. (2 Thessalonians 1:4)
  - Had “imitated him” in following Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1:6)
  - Had become examples for others to follow. (1 Thessalonians 1:)
  - Were “sounding forth” the Gospel. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)
  - Were “**serv**ing the living God. . .” (1 Thessalonians 1:9)
- Paul knew the power of Satan and the world. And Paul knew human nature. So Paul prayed for the saints at Thessalonica.
- Paul prayed that the saints at Thessalonica be **counted worthy**.
  - (Colossians 1:10) Paul prayed for the saints at Colossae that they “may **walk worthy** of the Lord, fully pleasing Him . . .”
  - (Philippians 1:27) Paul commanded the saints at Philippi to “let your conduct be **worthy** of the gospel of Christ”
  - (Matthew 10:37-38) Jesus taught, “whoever loves his/her family more than Me, does not take up his/her cross, and follow Me is **not worthy** of Me.”
  - (Luke 21:36) Jesus commanded us to watch and pray always that we may be accounted **worthy** to escape the judgment that is coming to the earth.
  - (Acts 5:41) After being beaten by religious leaders, the apostles rejoiced that they were counted **worthy** to suffer shame (dishonor) for Christ’s name!
- (2 Thessalonians 1:5) “worthy” is καταξιόω meaning “to deem entirely deserving”.
- (2 Thessalonians 1:11) “worthy” is αξιόω meaning “to be fit for”; “to be deserving of”
- **ARE WE LIVING WORTHY of OUR CALLING?**
  - (Ephesians 4:1) Paul commanded the saints at Ephesus “to **walk worthy** of the calling with which you were called”.
    - “to walk” is περιπατέω (peripateo) and it means “to make one’s way, to progress, to live, to regulate one’s life, to conduct one’s self, to behave, to live day-by-day.

- “**call**” refers to God’s call of regeneration. At regeneration God “re-creates” us into NEW creatures and we become the “children of God” by the will of God. (John 1:12-13; James 1:18; 2 Cor 5:7; John 3:1-8; Rom 8:28-30; 9:11; Gal 1:15; 2 Thess 2:13-14; 2 Tim 2:9; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2:9; 5:10; Heb 3:1)
- “**worthy**” is ἀξιόω axios {ax-ee'-oce} and comes from the root which means “balancing the scales”. Since we are the children of God, heirs of God, coheirs with Christ – such a high position – then our lives must match “balance” with who we are!
- As the children of God we now have an obligation to walk as Christ walked by living righteous lives. (1 John 2:6; 3:1-10)
- Our “walk” is visible to the world. (Matthew 5:13-16)
  - ★ Either we walk “according to the course of this world and according to the prince of the power of air” (Ephesians 2:2-3) or we walk “worthy other of the calling with which we were called” – the children of God.
- (2 Thessalonians 1:12) Paul prayed that the name (person) of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in the saints and they in Him.
  - ★ **MEDITATE on this!**
- Paul prayed that **GOD** would **fulfill** His good pleasure of **goodness** and **work of faith** in the saints! (Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 13:17)
- Paul prayed that the name of Christ be glorified *according* to the **GRACE** of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ★ A Christian prays for more grace (James 4:6) *so that* Christ’s name may be glorified in Him.

## Christians Pray

- Christians pray to glorify God.
- Disciples learn to pray from the word of God.
- Christians pray biblically.
- Christians pray together as a Body.
- Christians pray for those things commanded in the Word of God.
- Christians pray always.
- Christians pray for others.
- Christians pray for their brothers and sisters in their church.
- Christians pray that they may be found worthy of their calling as children of God.
- Christians pray that God may be glorified in their lives.