

## **You must Pray for Your Leaders**

Heb.13:18,19; 2Thess.3:1-5; 1Tim.2:1-7.

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### **1. Hebrews 13:18 & 19.**

**“Pray for us.** We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.”

The writer in this epistle,(which we believe to be Paul) has been straight forward and hard hitting in addressing the recipients of this letter. He desires that these people follow the truth. As Paul said in Galatians 4:16, am I, therefore, become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? Although he has stepped on some toes of some dearly held religious beliefs and scripturally argued that their religious practices are wrong and need to be changed, he does not consider himself their enemy, but their friend. The writer has clear conscience in all that he has and admonished. He looks forward to being restored to them shortly.

### **2. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5.**

- a) Verse 1. “Finally brothers, **pray for us** that the message of the Lord may spread and rapidly be honored, just as it was with you.”

By asking for prayer that the word of the Lord might be glorified, Paul is asking his Thessalonian children in the faith to pray that the truth of the gospel will be visibly manifested, such that the gospel essence might be observed. Paul added, just as is with you. This shows that Paul is praying that the gospel be lived out and exhibited by believers throughout the world, just as the Thessalonian believers.

- b) Verse 2. “And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith.”

The Thessalonians knew firsthand of persecution from those who did not have faith. When Paul first preached the gospel to them, he and his team were soon afterwards driven out of town by an angry mob of perverse and evil men, (Acts 17:5-10). These were men who did not have faith in God.

- c) Verse 3. “But the lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

The Thessalonians are also experiencing persecution from perverse and evil men, people who are perhaps unwittingly, doing the work of the evil one. Satan is the fallen angel and enemy of God (psalm 8:2). But since the Lord is faithful, God will strengthen and protect his children from Satan’s activity. When believers resist Satan, he will flee (James 4:7).

- d) Verse 4. “We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing good and will continue to do the things we command.”

Paul has great confidence that the Thessalonians will continue as they are for future faithfulness, that they will continue what Paul commands. This is because the Thessalonians have believed the good news of God and that walking in obedience to the commands of God is the path to experiencing the greatest fulfillment in life. This takes faith, since walking apart from the ways of the world brings persecution, as the Thessalonians have experienced.

- e) Verse 5. “May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”

This is one of the great themes of Thessalonian letters, that by their love, they will grow in their faith, but they must also have steadfastness to withstand the world’s attacks on them, and this love and steadfastness comes from God and Christ. Our help is received spiritually from our heavenly Father and our savior, not from our own force or will.

**3. I Timothy 2:1-7.**

- a) Verse 1. “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.”

The matter discussed, first of all, is important terms:

- Supplications: This particular word is a general term for petition and could describe a petition made to God or man. In this context, however it refers to petition made to God.
- Prayers: Is that word which is unrestricted as to content, But limited to petition to God.
- Intercessions: This word expresses confiding access to God, particularly in our usage, intercession can refer to prayer in behalf of another.
- Thanksgiving: It means to express to God our thanks as we recognize him as the giver of all things.

- b) Verse 2.

“For kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

- c) Verses 3 and 4.

“This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.”

God would have all men to be saved. Judaism was not missionary minded or concerned about all men. Early Gnosticism was leaning toward the elite and those who would be initiated into their system. But Paul says God is concerned about all men.

- d) Verses 5 and 6.

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all men – the testimony given in its proper time.”

The mediator is the one who stands in the middle of the median being equally related to both parties. Only God the Son is qualified

for the position of mediator for He is one in nature with the Father, yet he is made like unto his brethren.

- e) Veres 7. “And for this purpose, I was appointed a herald and an Apostle, I am telling the truth, I am not lying -- and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.” Herald mean one who comes with a message not his own.

Paul came with a proclamation from God. The preacher is a herald coming with a proclamation from God. Apostle means one sent. Paul calls himself a preacher, or herald and an apostle.