

2 THESS. 3:1-5 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT DO FAITHFUL PEOPLE PRAY FOR? - [\(SERMON MP3\)](#)

The Scriptures record for us many instances when we can see the advancement of the Gospel spreading rapidly and unexpectedly through whole cities. Such was the case in the city of Thessalonica. In fact, the original recipients of II Thessalonians 3:1-5 were part of the first wave of an incredible gospel advance in a dark and pagan city. In fact, I Thessalonians 1 gives us a picture of how the Gospel arrived to them, how it was preached, how it was received, and the impact it had on the life of the first Christians there.

- Read I Thessalonians 1:2-10 and note specifically what was so miraculous about their testimony?

- What parallels do you see between the work of God in the city of Thessalonica and the work of God we are engaged in here in Salt Lake City?

In II Thess. 3:3 we find the phrase “But the Lord is Faithful” and like so many of the prayers in Paul's letters, our text contains four specific prayer requests that are rooted and grounded in the faithfulness of God. We see many times in the prayers Paul wrote that he emphasized our hope and confidence in the faithfulness of God. Look up I Thessalonians 5:24 and Philippians 1:6.

- Why is it significant that the hope and confidence of our prayers are rooted and grounded in the faithfulness of God?

The Apostle Paul points us to pray for the success of the Word in II Thessalonians 3:1. He asks for prayer that the Word of the Lord may speed ahead, be honored and received openly. Read Isaiah 55:10-11, Jeremiah 1:12, and Psalm 147:15-19, The One who sends forth His Word is the Sovereign God, so whether it is sending forth rain or sending forth the gospel He is carefully watching over it to accomplish His purpose.

- So are we to conclude that because the Word of the Lord is so powerful and so mighty and that God is Sovereign we don't need to worry about praying? or Why do we need to pray?

In II Thessalonians 3:2-3 Paul asks for prayer to be delivered from “wicked and evil men.” It is clear that the one energizing these wicked men in opposition to the spread of the Gospel is the evil one himself. The word Paul uses here translated “wicked” or “perverse” originally means “morally evil” or “out of place.” Some commentators believe that the choice for Paul to use the word for “out of place” is a hint to the fact that Paul may have been referring not necessarily to enemies from without the church but from within.

- Read Acts 20:29-31. How should this inform our prayers for the protection of the flock of Gospel Grace Church?

