

## 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

## First RPC Durham

**I. How We Are to Pray (v 11a)****A.** We are to pray with understanding — *Therefore*

- 1) Larger Catechism 178, *What is prayer?* 'Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit; with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.'
- 2) To Whom we pray — To God alone, our Father in heaven
- 3) Through Whom we pray — Through the mediation of Christ our Great High Priest
- 4) By Whom we pray — By the power and instruction of the Holy Spirit
- 5) Our need of prayer — *Therefore* (1:3, 5, 8, 10)

**B.** We are to pray privately and publicly — *we also pray*

- 1) Private prayer (Mt 6:6)
- 2) Public prayer: Family (Psa 118:15); Friends (Jms 5:16); Church (1 Tim 2:1)

**C.** We are to pray without ceasing — *always* (1 Thes 5:17)

- 1) Pray with regularity (Psa 55:17)
- 2) Pray with spontaneity (Neh 2:4)
- 3) Pray with longevity (Lk 18:1)

**D.** We are to pray not only for ourselves, but also for others**E.** Further Use from the Text: Pray with faith (Lk 11:9-13)**II. What We Are to Pray (v 11b)****A.** *That our God would count you worthy of this calling* —

- 1) Exposition: That is, that you would — (a) Persevere individually through your present sufferings (2 Thes 1:4-5); and, (b) Persevere corporately in faith and godliness (Eph 4:1-3)
- 2) Correlation to the Lord's Prayer: *Hallowed be Thy name . . . And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us*
- 3) Uses from the Point
  - a) We should have the mindset of desiring to finish the race together.
  - b) Look to the promises of God (2 Pt 1:4)

**B.** *And fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness* —

- 1) Exposition: That God would do all of His Will, which is all good and all of grace —
  - a) By which we are elected and saved (Eph 1:5-6)
  - b) Because of which the Son took the form of a servant (Lk 2:13-14)
  - c) By which we walk according to our calling (Phil 2:12b-13)
- 2) Correlation to the Lord's Prayer: *Thy Kingdom come* (WSC 102); *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven* (WSC 103)
- 3) Use from the Point: Meditate and delight in the goodness of God (1 Jn 3:1a)

**C.** *And fulfill . . . the work of faith* —

- 1) Exposition
- 2) Correlation to the Lord's Prayer: *Give us this day our daily bread . . . And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*
- 3) Uses from the Point — Self-examination: How are you growing in faith? How do you desire to grow further in the faith?

**D.** Further Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to grow in our prayers
  - a) Learning from the Scriptures (Lk 11:1-2a; Mt 6:9a; Rom 11:33-36; Dan 9:7a, 9-11a; Jonah 2:1-2, 9; Mk 9:24)
  - b) Learning from the Saints (2 Tim 4:13)
- 2) Respond to the Word with prayer.
- 3) Pursue these matters of prayer with action.

**III. Why We Are to Pray (v 12).****A.** The purpose of this prayer:

- 1) *That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you* —
  - a) As in the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer — *For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever* (Heid. Cat. 128)
  - b) All things are for the glory of God
- 2) *And you in Him* (Psa 8:4-5)

**B.** The grounds of our praying:

- 1) *With power*
- 2) *According to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ* (Rom 9:23; Heidelberg Catechism 120)
- 3) To this inspired example of prayer we must conclude, *Amen* (Heidelberg Catechism 129)