

## 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

## First RPC Durham

**I. Praying for the Advancing of the Kingdom of God (vv 1-2).****A. Praying for the Advancing of the Word of God**

- 1) Context — *Finally, brethren* (Eph 6:12; Mt 16:18).
- 2) The Command to Pray — *Pray for us*
- 3) The Content of this Prayer
  - a) *That the word of the Lord may run swiftly*
    - i. Exposition (Ezk 37; Acts 26:29)
    - ii. Desire for the whole Word of God, both the Gospel and Law (Rom 7:12; 2 Thes 3:6; Mt 28:20), go forth
  - b) *That the word of the Lord may . . . be glorified*
    - i. The Word of God is not glorified now among men.
    - ii. Not the mystery of lawlessness (2:7), but the mystery of godliness (1 Tim 3:16) would be glorified. (1 Jn 3:8)

- 4) The Comfort for this Prayer — *Just as it is with you* (1 Jn 4:19; 1 Cor 6:9-11a)

**B. Praying for the Deliverance of the Saints from the Wicked**

- 1) The need for deliverance
- 2) From the wolves — *From unreasonable men*
- 3) From the wicked — *And wicked men*
- 4) The reminder — *For not all have faith*

**C. Uses from the Text**

- 1) Relationship between *Thy will be done* and *Deliver us from evil*
- 2) Let us have confidence in the will of God.
- 3) We are to delight in the Word of God.
- 4) The need for self-examination

**II. Two-Fold Confidence for the Kingdom's Advancing (vv 3-4).****A. Confidence 1: The faithfulness of the Lord**

- 1) What this means (Num 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18; 2 Tim 2:11-13)
- 2) The work of God in His faithfulness
  - a) *Establish his people* (2 Thes 2:16-17)
  - b) *Guard you*
    - i. Answering an Objection: *Why did I believe false doctrine for so long?* For our ignorance (we did not know), infirmity (could not know), idolatry (would not know).

- ii. Answering an Objection: *Why do I continue to sin if the Lord will guard me?* (Rom 7:18)

**B. Confidence 2: The perseverance of the saints**

- 1) Note, The confidence is in the Lord for the saints' perseverance (WCF 17.2)
  - 2) Past and present obedience
  - 3) Resolve for future faithfulness (1 Jn 3:20-24)
- C. Uses from the Text**
- 1) Let us have a true and tested assurance of salvation.
  - 2) Turn to the Lord in trust.
  - 3) Receive God's benediction in worship with faith.

**III. Praying for Blessing upon the Church (v 5).****A. The Lord directing our hearts**

- 1) Why the Lord has to direct our hearts:
  - a) Because of the nature of our own hearts (Jer 17:9-10)
  - b) Because of the gracious work of the Holy Spirit (Ezk 36:26-27)
- 2) How does the Lord do this? (1 Jn 4:10)

**B. Into the love of God**

- 1) The primacy of God's love (2 Thes 2:16; Isa 43:1-4)
- 2) The delight of God's love — (a) The love of God is not an abstract love, but a was a love that came down from heaven. (b) It is not an impotent love, but a saving love. (c) It is not just a temporary love but an everlasting love. (d) It is not a common love, but a special love. (e) It is not a stale love, but an ever-living love. (f) It is not an unrequited love, but he leads His people to know, enjoy and reciprocate that love for all eternity. (g) The love of God is not a necessary act, but is free and all of grace (Zeph 3:17)

**C. Into the patience of Christ** — That is, the patience of Christ, and the patience for Christ's return (Heb 12:1-2)**D. Uses from the Text**

- 1) Let the love of God produce in your hearts joy.
- 2) Let the patience of Christ and for His return produce in your hearts peace (Psa 98:9)