

# Home Group Helps

## 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

### *Living in the Light of His Return: The Apostle's Prayer*

<sup>11</sup> To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power; <sup>12</sup> in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**I. The Report of the Prayer (v.11a)** – <sup>11</sup> To this end also we pray for you always . . .

**II. The Requests of the Prayer (v.11b-c)** – that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power;

**III. The Reason for the Prayer (v.12)** – <sup>12</sup> in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### 1. Launching Question(s):

- What is the hardest thing about praying?

#### 2. Observation Question(s):

- Jesus' High Priestly Prayer includes these requests, "<sup>14</sup> I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world" (John 17).
- How does Jesus' prayer relate to what is happening in the Church of Thessalonica at the time Paul wrote this epistle? How does it relate to your experience?

#### 3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul closes his prayer report by providing the reason for his requests, "in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him" (v.12).
- What role does glorifying God have in your prayer life? In the way that you live?
- How should the fact that our "chief end" is to "glorify God and enjoy Him forever" (WFC-SCQ1) affect our prayer life?
- Explain the reciprocal relationship here. How is it that we are also glorified? (see Romans 8:28-30)

#### 4. Reflection Question(s):

- Notice that Paul does not pray that the suffering of the Thessalonians would cease. Rather, he prays that they would prove themselves to be worthy of their calling and that they would see God's power as they increase in goodness and faith in the midst of their suffering. What lessons do we learn from this?

#### 5. Application Question(s):

- Puritan John Owen noted, "He who prays as he ought, will endeavor to live as he prays."
- How ought we pray/live this week?