

PAUL'S REQUEST FOR PRAYER  
II THESS. 3:1

Introduction:

- A. Paul has concluded his teaching about the coming of Christ and His Kingdom.
  - 1. The apostasy must come.
  - 2. The man of sin must be revealed.
  
- B. He has praised the Thessalonians and comforted them.
  - 1. 2:13 "we are bound to give thanks."
  - 2. 2:16-17.
  - 3. 2:15 "stand fast."
  
- C. He continues his letter but the things he writes now are not secondary.
  - 1. "finally" = as to the rest.
  - 2. Used to introduce practical instruction.

I. PAUL'S BELIEF IN AND INSISTENCE ON PRAYER.

- A. "pray for us."
  - 1. Character -----
    - a. Eph. 6:18-19.
    - b. Rom. 15:30-31.
  - 2. Do we need less prayer than Paul?
  - 3. Results of: II Cor. 1:11.
  
- b. You should pray for the preacher.
  - 1. It would be a sin not to do it.
  - 2. It would make the preacher a better person.
  - 3. It would make you a better person.

II. PAUL'S FIRST PRAYER REQUEST. V1

- A. "that the word of the Lord may have free course."
  - 1. "the word of the Lord" is the gospel.



2. "free course," precho = run, stadium olympic, to hasten, hurry.
  3. May be reference to Psalm 147:15-- "He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth; his word runneth very swiftly."
  4. Why would Paul make such a request?
- B. What can the Word of God do?
1. II Tim. 3:15,16,17.
    - a. "wise unto salvation."
    - b. "profitable," useful, aiding, helping.
    - c. "doctrine," the true teaching.
    - d. "reproof," conviction.
    - e. "correction," to set up again.
    - f. "instruction in righteousness," instructing in right doing.
    - g. "perfect," mature.
- C. "and be glorified."
1. Honored and admired for its inherent qualities when men see a demonstration of its transforming power.
- D. "even as it is with you."
1. The preaching of the gospel at Thessalonica brought results.
  2. People honored God because of the manner of their life.
  3. New birth is not the only thing that will change your life! Bible will!

### III. PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER REQUEST. V2

- A. "and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men."
1. delivered = deliverance from peril.

2. unreasonable does not mean they are irrational. Its root meaning is "out of place." Everywhere else of things, not people, hence "outrageous," gold ring in a pig's nose.
  3. They had seen such. Acts 17:5-9.  
Acts 17:13-15.
- B. Men are often the greatest enemies of preaching the Word of God.
1. They are called "evil."
  2. The source of hostility. "have not faith."