

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

II Thessalonians 3:5

As we face the new year, let's learn from one of Paul's prayer about how we ought to be praying for one another

I. THE GOAL OF THIS PRAYER

- Praying for your heart condition

- A. THE ACTIVITY: Praying to the Lord
 - As I look ahead here is my wish for your future

- B. THE SUBJECT: For your heart
 - 1. The particulars: Not prayer from my heart, with all my heart but for your heart
 - 2. The issue is your heart
 - 3. The aim of your heart
 - I am praying that your heart will not stray off course
 - 4. The clutter in your heart
 - Removing the obstacles which Satan may use to obscure your path

- C. THE APPLICATION
 - 1. The Issue: How can we be praying for others to be directed toward God?
 - 2. Some Instructions:
 - a. Encourage them to rest in God's faithfulness (3)
 - b. Remind them to withdraw from the disorderly (6)

II. THE MOTIVATION OF THIS PRAYER

- Your heart directed into the love of God

- A. AN APPRECIATION OF GOD'S LOVE
 - 1. Growing in your appreciation of God love and as a consequence you know Him better
 - 2. You enter into the sphere of His love
 - a. We are outsiders that God lets in!
 - b. Never get over it! - See I Tim. 1:15-17

- B. OBEDIENCE BECAUSE OF GOD'S LOVE
 - 1. Our obedience is not to receive His love or favor but in response to it
 - 2. See Eph. 2:8-10

C. ENERGIZED BY GOD'S LOVE

1. God's love gives hope - Rom. 5:1-5
2. God's love insures victory - Rom. 8:35-37
3. God's love provides comfort - II Thess. 2:16-17

III. THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THIS PRAYER

- Your heart directed into the endurance of Christ

A. ENDURANCE ...

1. Enduring amid adverse circumstances as Christ did
- See for instance Matt. 26:51-53 and 27:11-14
2. Being steadfast no matter the cost - Exp: Thomas in John 11:7-16
3. A brave perseverance

B. LIKE CHRIST'S - Hebrews 12:1-4

1. Run with endurance (1)
2. Look to Jesus for hope (2)
3. Consider Christ (3-4)

C. APPLICATION

1. Keep working (3:11-12)
2. Do not forsake your duties (3:13)

CONCLUSION:

Let us commit to this new year's prayer:

*- I pray for the condition of your heart to be motivated
by God's love and encouraged by Christ's endurance.*