

Direction of Heart

Rachael Martin 10,8,2015

2 Thessalonians 3:5 – Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

It's very easy to be taken back by what people post on the internet or say in the media – it's hard to show love when you see someone acting out or being cruel. When I read the above scripture, I knew immediately that I would be writing about it but I thought it was going to be about the Love of God. Then I started reading all of [2 Thessalonians 3](#) and it started to take a different **direction**.

1. That the direction of our hearts be pleasing to God, that we don't take on offenses, that we put God first, that we pray for our enemies and love our neighbors.
2. That the same patience that Christ had for those who were being disciplined was the same patience He had for those who didn't know Him.

Here is a good guideline for us all: – (w/*Matthew Henry's Commentary beside each*):

- **Put God first** – This was the great thing that Paul was most eager about, that God's name might be sanctified, His kingdom advanced, and His will done, than he was about his own daily bread. He desired that the word of the Lord might run, that it might gain ground that it might go forward and not backward.
- **Pray for all** – All the forces of hell were then, and still are, more or less, raised and mustered to oppose the word of the Lord, to hinder its publication and success. We should pray, therefore, that oppositions may be removed, so the gospel, may have free course to the ears, the hearts, and the consciences of men that it may be glorified in the conviction and conversion of sinners, and the holy conversation of the saints.

- **Love in all** – the best of all beings; it is a great part of the happiness of heaven itself, where this love shall be made perfect. We can never attain to this unless God by his grace direct our hearts aright, for our love is apt to go astray after other things. Note, We sustain a great deal of damage by misplacing our affections

- **Be Faithful in all** – There is need of the spiritual protection, as well as the assistance, of godly and faithful ministers, for these are as the standard-bearers, who are most struck at; and therefore all who wish well to the interest of Christ in the world should pray for them. *For all men have not faith*

- **Do not grow weary** – He encourages them to trust in God. We should not only pray to God for his grace, but also place our trust and confidence in his grace, and humbly expect what we pray for.

- **Work for what you have (don't be a burden)** – Those persons who have no business of their own to do, or who neglect it, busy themselves in other men's matters. There were some among them who were idle, *not working at all*, or doing nothing. It does not appear that they were gluttons or drunkards, but idle, and therefore disorderly people. It is not enough for any to say they do no hurt; it is required of all persons that they do good in the places and relations in which Providence has placed them. If we were sure that the day of judgment were ever so near, we must do the work of the day in its day, that when our Lord comes He may find us doing our part and ready.

- **Pray about the circle of people you call "friends"** – We may sometimes be in as much or more danger from false and pretended friends as from open and avowed enemies.

Blessings to you today and may the Lord direct your hearts into the Love of God and into the patience of Jesus Christ. Amen!

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