**Week of January 6, 2019**

**Thessalonians 3:1-5; 2 John 4-11**

1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; 2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow labourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: 3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto\*. 4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. 5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. 5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any\* unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither\* bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today scripture we find the writer the Apostle Paul sharing with the Thessalonian people the reasons they should pray. Paul advised them that they should pray multiple times during the day. He requested prayer for several conditions. First, he requested prayer that the Gospel was spread throughout the land quickly. It was also important to Paul that as the Gospel was spread, it would be honored and would be considered valuable to everyone who encountered the teachings of Christ. Second, Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray for him and others who were in ministry with him, that they may not fall prey to the wickedness of evil men. Paul prayed for personal protection for him and others because the climate in which they ministered was full of unrighteousness and sin. This opposition was of great concern to Paul because he did not want the Gospel message to be hindered in any way.

Paul then shifts his prayer request to encouragement for the Thessalonians that they may continue in faith. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to remember that the Lord is faithful. God never waiver his faithfulness to humanity. God always protects and meet the needs of his people. Paul encouraged the Thessalonian people to continue in their faith and not to waver and to stay focused on their belief and obedience to God.

In Second John we are reminded of three strong themes from the text: 1) Christians are to walk in love towards on another, obey God’s commandments, and be watchful against false teaching of the Gospel.; 2) Christians should rejoice when they witness other believers who are walking in obedience to God’s commands. 3) Believers must guard against being influenced by deceivers, or those who do not acknowledge Jesus.

We are to remember that there is no other name under heaven in which a person may be saved and that name is Jesus.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believe in him shall not perish but have ever lasting life.

That if though shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved

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