



The Second Coming
of Christ

Thoughts from Second Thessalonians ...

Prayer for the Spread of the Word

This world does not exist simply so that mankind may have some comforts and pleasures. It does not exist so that electricity may be produced, or that information may be easily and digitally transmitted. This world exists at the pleasure of the great God and Creator of all, and His pleasure is the distribution of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When there is no one left who will believe enough to obey the gospel of God, then the Almighty will put an end to planet earth. No amount of so-called "green thinking" or reducing the "carbon footprint" is going to change any of God's plans. Jesus, during the years of His earthly sojourn, plainly stated, "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled" (Luke 12:49). When He kindles

it, earth goes up in smoke. But as long as there is someone on this planet who is a truth-seeker. He will withhold His execution of judgment. In the meantime, the goal is to get the gospel out.

- **Prayers requested** — The apostle writes a prayer in this epistle for the brethren in Thessalonica, that Christ and God would "comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word." He then reverses his field and asks the brethren to pray for him and his fellow workers. "Finally, brethren," he requests, "pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you" (2 Thessalonians 3:1). This is one awesome request that should still be honored today. It would certainly be tremendously wonderful if the word of God would be heard and obeyed in a major way. It is interesting that the apostle pictures the gospel as *running rapidly*, spreading like wildfire through the masses of mankind. Regarding glorification: Jesus had made this statement, "By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples" (John 15:8). Hence when Paul prays that the word might be glorified, he is praying that its preaching would produce many disciples.

- **Delivered** — Basically the word of God has to be transmitted from person to person. There would be the extremely rare man in modern times who would be able to process the scriptures in such a manner that he would understand the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. But especially in the era in which the New Testament was being written, the only way a person could come to the true belief in Christ would be through the preaching and teaching of another individual. Thus, if Satan could block the progress of the messengers, he could block the progress of the gospel. Paul therefore continues his thought in asking for the prayers of the saints, "and that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men, for not all have faith" (2 Thessalonians 3:2). All Christians need to be conscious that there are those who are twisted, perverted individuals, who due to an anti-God sexual proclivity or for some other reason are totally against the doctrine of God. There are those who oppose the truth in a verbal, argumentative form, and there are those evil types who actually engage in physical intimidation and violence to shut the mouths of those who would call them and the world to repentance. Paul is clearly concerned enough about them to ask the brethren that he and his fellow teachers might be delivered from such.

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God's earnest desire is that all men "come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). The sacred writings are clear that He does not wish "for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). It would be a logical conclusion for modern saints to pray as well, "that the word of the Lord spread rapidly and be glorified," and that modern teachers and preachers "be delivered from perverse and evil men." It is true, that not all men have faith, nor do they have any intention of coming to believe in the faith system outlined by the new covenant writings.

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