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A Prayer For Today, Tomorrow, Always

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A PRAYER FOR: TODAY, TOMORROW,
ALWAYS I Thess. 3:9-13

I. I've heard Paul called many things.

A. Apostle to the Gentiles.

B. Peerless Paul.

C. One of 10 Great All Time Men.

D. Why not Praying Preacher.

1. If any ever did, Paul did.

2. We now study a Prayer that takes 3 periods - today, tomorrow, always.

II. The Recipient of the Prayer.

A. It was to God and to Jesus.

1. There is the singular verb used.

(a) Significance debatable but evidently shows Father & Son are one essential being.

2. Prayers not only in Jesus name but to Jesus!

(a) It's always seemed strange some felt they could not talk to the very one saving your soul.

(b) Can you imagine talking to the Judge but not to your lawyer, advocate, defense attorney?

3. Bible addresses of prayer to Jesus.

2 Thess. 2:16-17 "Now our Lord Jesus Christ

2 T. 3:5 "And the love direct your hearts

Acts 7:59 "Stephen calling upon God 'Lord Jesus

(a) We raise prayer songs to Him all time

B. See the power of Intercessory Prayer.

1. He felt it could bring to pass his desire
2. Do you think preachers pray for you today?
3. John Buchan said an atheist was one who had no invisible means of support.

III. 1st leg of Paul's Prayer was for Today.

I Thess. 3:11 "God - Jesus direct our way.

A. Paul asks guidance in ordinary things of life.

1. He wanted to come see them.
2. Direct has "guide" in margin.
 - (a) Make straight toward anything.
 - (b) Remove obstacles.
 - (c) It was Satan who hindered.

I Thess. 2:18 "We would have come

(d) Took 5 years to answer this prayer.

B. Do we ask God to help in little things?

1. Is He only the God of the great moment?
2. Or is He the God of the lunch bucket, ball game, & mid-term test.
3. Aren't there things right now you want & feel God will give - ask Him.

(a) Clip on Joe Barnett & "Freshment Game".

IV. Secondly, Paul has a prayer for Growth in the Brethren.

V. 12 "And the Lord make you to in.

A. What the church needs is love.

1. He felt prayer could help bring this about.

2. He wanted them to fulfill love as the law of life in their daily duties.
3. Love is the fulfillment of what God asks of us.

Jn. 13

4. It is essential - w/o it no Heaven.
 - (a) You in V. 12 is emphatic.
 - (b) It stands 1st.
5. Note the measure of the love.
 - (a) Wesley "Multiple you in love till you have enuf to spare."
 - (b) Wants increase & abound.
 - (c) This shows two things:
 - (1) Progress.
 - (2) Eventual estate to which you are to grow.
 - (d) Conversion is instantaneous, but maturity takes growth.

B. Do I truly love the brethren.

1. Is it increasing?
2. Does it finally spill over on all mankind?
3. He felt prayer could help bring about love - do you? Practice it?

West End 11-29-70

Russell P. Audrey-Idenb.

V. Paul's Prayer Reaches to Tomorrow's Judgment.

V. 13 "To the end he may stablish

A. He has several end result wishes.

1. Stablish your hearts.

(a) Heart is whole person.

(b) It is before the inspection of one who is at once God & Father.

(c) God judges but He commits it to His Son as agent.

Jn. 5:22

Acts 17:31

2. Wants you unblamable in Holiness.

(a) Holiness is end result.

(b) This is what God wants from us - holiness.

3. Your holiness subject to God's scrutiny

(a) Live us Judge can't blame one.

(b) You can fool men but you can't God.

(c) Note Paul was praying for their ultimate safety before Judgment bar.

(d) Was it to change God's mind or their life?

4. But how can God call me holy?

(a) God's Grace allows him to treat sinful men as tho they never did sin & thus they can receive the reward of perfect righteousness - God loves me that much & His Son is that effective!

(b) Question is will Judgment let you meet God as a stranger?

5. 2nd coming very important.

- (a) V. 13 uses "Parousia" = presence as result of his coming.
- (b) Okenga "His coming will confirm men in the condition they are found."
- (c) Paul wants them holy & blameless.
- (d) His coming an incentive to Holiness.
I Jn. 3:2
- (e) Also to evangelism.
- (f) Prayer helps bring this about - how long Lord Jesus, how long - till we hear etc.
Rev. 22

6. Will his coming bring you rewards or punishments

"And to you that look for Him

- (a) Don't you want Him to call you unblamable?
- (b) All else in life is secondary to being in that number.

*West End 12-13-70
Mrs. Margaret Blair - Rest.*

Two women met by a well,
And laid their pitchers on the edge.
Each one's face was stained with tears,
And one looked to the other and said,
"They executed my son today.
They nailed him to a cross on Calvary.
He died a common criminal's death,
While they let a murderer go free."
And then she looked up and said,
"My son's name was Jesus."
The other woman then replied,
As the words broke through her strife,
"My son died this morning also,
But with a rope he took his life."
And then she faced the woman
Whose feeling was the same.
"My son died this morning also.
Judas was his name."

JOHN ABBOTT

"If we break this down into a small group, we may see the facts clearly. Let us consider eight babies born with all the birthrights of American children. According to recent statistics of church school attendance, four of these children will never be in Sunday school or ever have any kind of religious teaching, unless the church and the home do better than they have in the past. Four of these children will start to Sunday school, but for some reason three of them will have dropped out by the time they are ten years old. Only one of these eight really has a chance of becoming a true Christian adult to carry on the faith of our fathers. What of the other seven!"

--from "Teaching That Makes a Difference"

by Irene Smith Caldwell

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