

1 Thessalonians
Lesson 9

Women of Grace

Fall 2020

The Pastor's Prayer

1 THESSALONIANS 3:11-13

“This is the day for which we are laboring. In that day, we shall be resurrected. ... We need to live for that day – the day when God will manifest his glory in his people. If we live for that day, it will change our living and it will change our serving. God grant it, as we say, 'even so come Lord Jesus.'”

-Eric Alexander

A Prayer for Direction (v. 11)

Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way
to you;
- 1 Thessalonians 3:11

1. To whom does Paul direct this prayer?

a. What things come to mind when you address God as Father?

b. What things come to mind when you address Jesus as Lord?

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2. What is the significance of Paul addressing this prayer to both God the Father and to the Lord Jesus Christ?

3. How does verse 11 connect back to verse 10 and 2:18?

4. What did Paul hope to do if he saw the Thessalonians again?

a. Is this the prayer of your heart? Who can you commit to praying this for?



5. Was Paul's desire to see the Thessalonians ever realized? See Acts 20:1-4.

6. Paul begins his prayer with the word “may”. What does this show us about Paul's belief and trust in the sovereignty of God?

7. Paul trusted the Lord's sovereignty to direct his path back to the Thessalonians. How do you respond when your plans are foiled? See Proverbs 16:9.

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and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;
- 1 Thessalonians 3:12

1. Whom is Paul depending upon for the spiritual growth of the Thessalonians? See John 15:4-5; 1 Corinthians 3:6; 2 Corinthians 3:5; 9:8; Galatians 2:20.

- a. Is this who you depend on for the spiritual growth of others as well as yourself?

- b. What evidence may there be that you are depending upon yourself to produce fruit in your life or the lives of others (your friends, family, husband, children)?

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2. What is one of the most evident signs of a true believer? (John 13:34-35, 15:12, 1 John 4:7-8)

3. Who did Paul use as an example for the Thessalonians to follow in how to love others?

4. Who was that persons example?

5. Who should be our example in how we love others? Use scripture to support your answer.



6. What two words does Paul use in regards to how they should love?
Use a dictionary to define these two words.

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7. Was Paul's request answered? See 2 Thessalonians 1:3.

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and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;|
- 1 Thessalonians 3:12

1. What two groups does Paul identify towards whom their love ought to increase and abound?

2. Is our love for the body the same love we have for “all people”?

3. From the following “one another” passages what are we commanded to do? Give a practical example of how to live each one out.
 - a. John 13:14

b. Romans 12:10

c. Romans 12:16

d. Galatians 5:13

e. Ephesians 4:2



f. Ephesians 4:32

g. 1 Peter 4:8

4. From the following “all people” passages what are we commanded to do? Give a practical example of how to live each one out.

a. Romans 12:18

b. Galatians 6:10

c. 1 Timothy 2:1

d. 2 Timothy 2:24-25

e. Titus 3:2

f. 1 Peter 2:17

so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.
- 1 Thessalonians 3:13

1. What is the connection that Paul is making between love and holiness in verses 12 and 13?

2. How might loving others cause us to become more serious in our own sanctification?

3. When Paul prays that their hearts may be blameless before God is he expecting that they can attain spiritual perfection in this life? Why or why not?

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4. What is the hope that the Thessalonians are to look towards?

5. What should that hope produce in them?

6. We think of the heart as the seat of emotions in a person life. What does Paul mean by the word heart?

7. How is the word heart used in the following passages?
a. Genesis 18:5

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b. Jonah 2:3

c. Matthew 6:21

d. Proverbs 3:5

e. John 14:27



f. Mark 6:52

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g. Psalm 19:14

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- 1 Thessalonians 3:13

1. How is sanctification accomplished in the life of a believer?

2. Does God's sovereignty ever negate man's responsibility to work towards greater and greater sanctification?

3. What does Scripture say about being holy and blameless? See 1 Corinthians 1:8; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 1:21-23; and Jude 24.

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4. Whose desire is it that we be holy. Use Scripture to support your answer.

5. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes with all His saints, He will then reward them at the Bema (or judgement seat) Seat of Christ. See 1 Corinthians 3:10-13; 2 Corinthians 5:10; and Romans 14:10. How does this help you think rightly about the time you have left on earth?

6. Are believers rewarded for the works that they do, or for the attitude with which they do those works?

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Dig Deeper

1. Do a word study on the word heart in scripture.

2. Read John 10:22-39. How would you answer someone who claims that Jesus is not equal to God?

3. Using the Overview of True Love below, use the Winter Break to pray through the list and give examples of how you can implement each characteristic.

OVERVIEW - True Love (5:13)

These qualities characterize authentic, biblical love according to the Apostle Paul as outlined in 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. He then promises, ‘Love never fails’ (13:8).

1. ‘Love suffers long.’ Therefore, I will bear with a person’s worst behavior, without retaliation, regardless of the circumstances.

2. ‘Love is kind.’ Therefore, I will diligently seek ways to be actively useful in another person’s life.

3. ‘Love does not envy.’ Therefore, I will delight in the esteem and honor given to someone else.

(Excerpt from 1&2 Thessalonians: Triumphs and Trials
of a Consecrated Church)

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4. 'Love does not parade itself.' Therefore, I will not draw attention to myself exclusive of others.

5. 'Love is not puffed up.' Therefore, I know I am no more important than others.

6. 'Love does not behave rudely.' Therefore, I will not engage any person in ungodly activity.

7. 'Love does not seek its own.' Therefore, I will be others oriented.

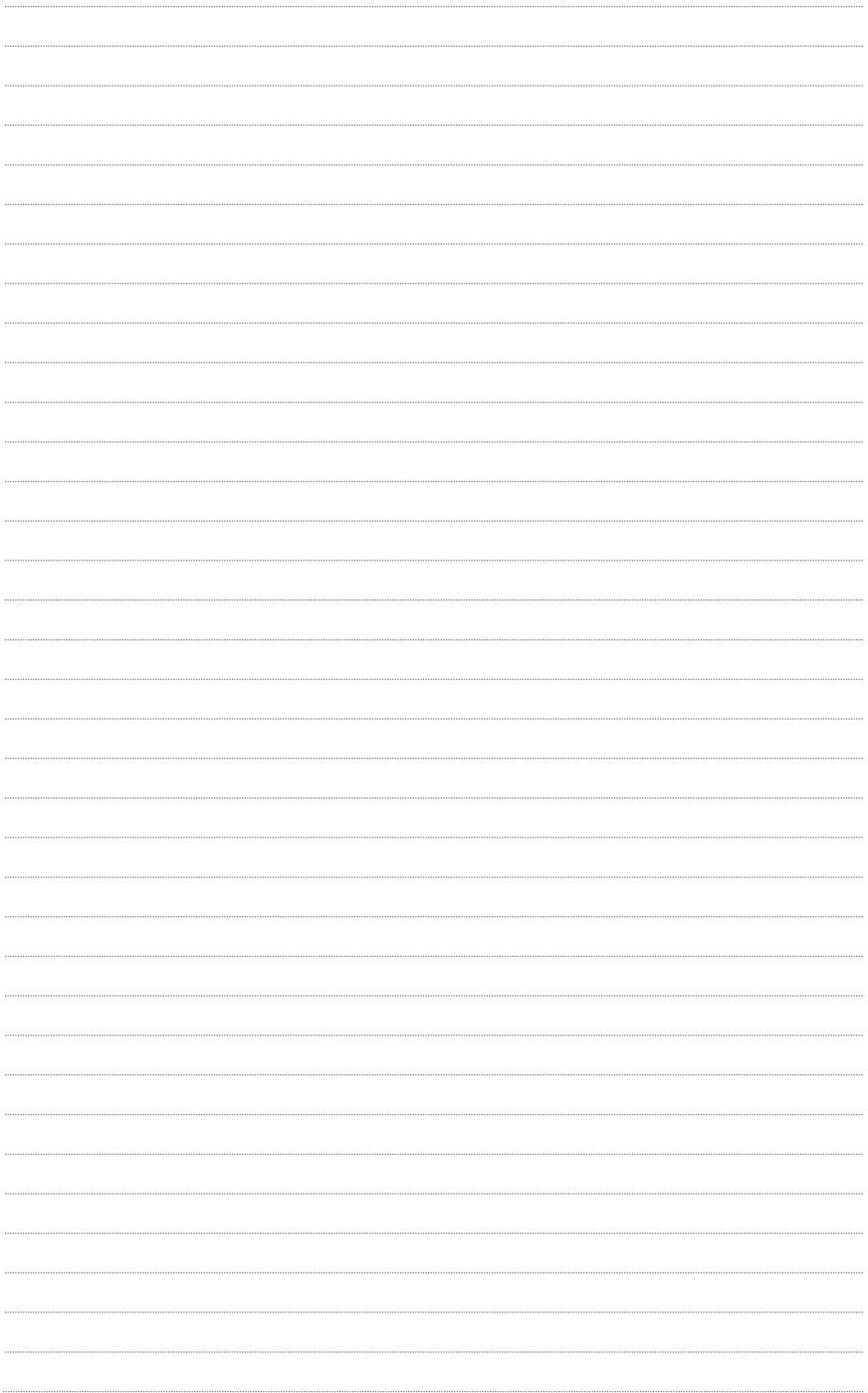
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8. 'Love is not provoked.' Therefore, I will not resort to anger as a solution to difficulties between myself and others.

9. 'Love thinks no evil.' Therefore, I will never keep an account due on others.

10. 'Love does not rejoice in iniquity.' Therefore, I will never delight in another's unrighteous behavior, nor will I join its expression.

11. 'Love rejoices in the truth.' Therefore, I will find great joy when truth prevails in another's life.



12. 'Love bears all things.' Therefore, I will be publicly silent about another's faults.

13. 'Love believes all things.' Therefore, I will express unshakeable confidence and trust in others.

14. 'Love hopes all things.' Therefore, I will confidently expect future victory in another's life, regardless of the present imperfections.

15. 'Love endures all things.' Therefore, I will outlast every assault of Satan to break up relationships.



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