

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 30, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Understanding the Context of Paul's Prayer to be Counted Worthy

Paul prayed for the saints to walk in the glory and benefits of wholeheartedness (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12). He prayed for believers to be inspired by the Spirit to respond to Jesus in a way worthy of Him—in wholeheartedness. He also connected this with the ability to fulfill all of God's will in their lives.

“Therefore, we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus... may be glorified in you, and you in Him...”

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Paul identified three ways that the Lord has wisely or righteously determined to use persecution and the sinful mistreatment of others to strengthen and transform the saints. It is manifested evidence or proof of God's righteous or good leadership. It is proof that God is judging or leading His people in a wise way that leads to their greatest benefit by appointing them to endure persecution in this age.

“all your persecutions... which is manifest evidence of the righteous [wise] judgment of God...”

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5

1. It requires spiritual insight to agree with His judgments (leadership decisions) to appoint us to endure persecution as part of His wise leadership to enable us to give Him a worthy response.
 - a. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
Hebrews 11:1
2. We must cultivate God's view of how persecution “works for us” to our great benefit.
 - a. “...we do not lose heart [get offended]. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for moment, is working for us a far more exceeding... weight of glory while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...”
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Jesus warned in Matthew 24:9 (AMPC), “Then they will hand you over to suffer affliction and tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.”

Paul was knowing that in the last days starting from their time much persecution will be available to the people of God! This is specifically available to all who would contend for the faith and not compromise.