

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

February 1, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Understanding the Context of Paul's Prayer to be Counted Worthy, Part 3

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

(Evidence #1 in January 31 post)

Evidence #2: God will eventually repay or punish those who persecute His people. Thus, we do not get into a wrong spirit by seeking our own vengeance nor do we “give in” to being like those who afflict us. It is right that He afflicts those who afflict you. There is a cry for justice in the human spirit—we can be assured that justice will be done, yet it will happen mostly after Jesus returns.

“...evidence of the righteous judgment of God... since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you... when the Lord Jesus is revealed...”

2 Thessalonians 1:5-7

Evidence #3: God gives His persecuted people rest. We will receive a 100-fold recovery of all that we lost in being persecuted. This sure hope purifies, prepares, and makes us suited to meet Jesus—this increases more as persecution causes us to look to our glorious, eternal future.

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“...manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God... to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels...”

2 Thessalonians 1:5-7

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...”

Matthew 5:11-12

“...we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him... Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

1 John 3:2-3

Each of these three manifest evidences of His good leadership have a corresponding domino effect in progressively changing how we think, feel, and process pressure and His leadership in our life.

Many of these studies are a bit new and even strange. We are in the last days. Strange things are happening. God will reveal Himself, not to be strange, but to show us another dimension of His person. Be ready therefore to see faces of God reflected in His leadership. Study and meditate on these apostolic prayers. They will be valuable in the future life we have in Christ!