

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

**"Brethren, pray for us" I Thessalonians 5:25.**

Among one of the shortest verses in the Bible, this verse has a lot to say.

- It reveals the Apostle Paul's dependence upon prayer. We think of Paul as a vessel of the Lord, pouring out God's grace and power and wisdom. But Paul understood something we often overlook; a vessel needs often to be filled. Knowing this, he counted on the prayers of the saints to intercede on his behalf.
- It reveals the Holy Spirit's emphasis on prayer. We believe that the Word of God is just that; His Word! We believe that all scripture is "God breathed"; inspired and related to mere men by the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that moved upon Paul's heart to request the prayers of others. Consider if you will how much ink has been expended down through the centuries for the printing of this one small verse! Surely God has a purpose for you and me in this brief sentence.
- It reveals who the Holy Spirit, and subsequently Paul, counts on for prayer in this world; the **brethren!** Each of us that claim the name of Jesus has within us the same power of any other that does! I'd feel pretty special if I knew Franklin Graham was praying for me, but the fact is, it's pretty special and just as effective, when **anyone** that is among the brethren is praying for us.
- It reveals Paul's humility. Just think, the great Apostle Paul did not think himself above the need for prayer from any of the membership of the church at Thessalonica.

Like the verse above, this is a pretty short Bible study. But if understood and exercised by everyone that reads it, this short study could make a world of difference.

I'll not bore you with the details of the guidelines and recommendations or the possible liabilities that I've researched in print and in web meetings concerning the COVID situation. Suffice it to say that I trust all of you realize that the safety of our membership is our first concern above all else.

I'm sure most of you have reached your conclusions about all that's transpired over the course of the last month. But I have to tell you, every time I reach a conclusion, when I think about the possible consequences; I begin to rethink my conclusion.

The so called "green light" that was given by the state yesterday is actually a yellow light. And I'm not one hundred percent sure whether we should hit the gas to beat the red or proceed with caution! I feel like a squirrel in the middle of the road... I don't know whether to keep running or to turn back and kind of feel like I'm going to end up getting run over!

I'm so thankful for your understanding and prayers up to this point. I really cannot begin to tell how much our church family has, in an odd way, become even more precious during this time. So, as we move forward, I'm going to follow Paul's example and the Spirits leading by asking you to take a moment this evening and...

**"Brethren, pray for us!"**