



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Prayer of a Selfless Saint

Date: October 11, 2024

Scripture Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:10-13

Notes:

Jesus is the perfect example for every aspect of our lives. His walk with His heavenly Father, His concern for others, how He responded to His circumstances, His commitment to God's truth. All things we can learn from and imitate. The Apostle Paul is an example of someone who spent his time imitating Jesus, and teaching others to do the same ([Phil. 4:9](#)). What Jesus exemplified, and what Paul practiced was selfless living. He desired to see others live as disciples of Jesus Christ. He had a passion for others to grow and mature and would pray regularly for this. Let's take a look three elements of a 'prayer of a selfless saint'.

I. Prayed for a Mature Faith (1 Thess. 3:10-11)

Paul prayed night and day for the Thessalonian Christians and for opportunity to see them again to help them mature in Christ. When Paul originally visited Thessalonica during his second missionary journey, he was forced to leave before he wanted, by a riot that was started by a group of jealous Jews. He wanted to get back to finish what he started.

- Paul had a strong desire to see the Thessalonian Christians mature in their faith.
 - What are ways we can mature in our faith today?
- Growing and maturing in our faith is a never-ending process. How can you remain motivated to continue maturing in your faith?
- Paul depended on the power of God ([vs. 11](#)). He didn't want to minister to the Thessalonians on his own agenda, but by God's power and authority.
 - Why is it important to do things God's way (even if what we want to do seems like a good thing but that's not what God wants us to do)?
- How can trials help us mature in our faith ([2 Cor. 4:16-18](#))?
- Name a trial that helped you grow in your faith.
- Describe the characteristics of someone growing in their faith.

II. Prayed for a Growing Love (1 Thess. 3:12)

Paul prayed for his readers love to ever-increase, truly reflecting the love of Christ. Paul lists two groups of people that need love: one another (family of God), and all people (the lost). Loving the church helps to edify, build up, and equip believers. "We are one in the bond of love" so says the hymn. To be the hands and feet of Christ includes loving the lost. This includes our enemies. Although our reason for loving one another and the lost may be different, with different outcomes, the source is the same, Jesus Christ!



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- How can our love for one another (church family) make a stronger body of Christ?
- Read [1 Cor. 13:4-7](#). What does it say about how we are to love?
- Do you find it hard to love the lost?
- Why is loving the lost so important?
- What are examples of Jesus loving the lost?
- Who is a Christian brother or sister that you can show the love of Christ to?
- Who is a lost person you can show the love of Christ to?

III. Prayed for a Purifying Hope (1 Thess. 3:13)

Paul adds perspective by directing his readers' focus to that Day when Jesus returns. He wants them to have hearts that are blameless and holy in preparation for that Day. "Love, and every other virtue, springs from the heart. It is not a matter of following rules, but of the inner life that makes Christianity vibrant. He realized that unless the heart is firmly established, there will be no growth and development. Changing methods or habits sometimes lasts for a short time, but lasting change begins with the heart. This change can come only from the Lord." (Larson)

- How would you describe a blameless and holy heart?
- To develop a heart that is blameless and holy goes back to the first point, the importance of maturing in our faith.
 - What are ways to clean out or replace anything that is unholy in your heart [Rom. 12:1-2](#)?
- How can being engaged and invested in the body of Christ (the church) help us focus on that which is blameless and holy?

Who are you praying for, and investing in to see them grow in their faith? How can you have a passion as Paul had for others?