

Chapter 2 - The Framework of Prayer (2 Thessalonians 1:3-12)

³ We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. ⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— ⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. ¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. **2 Thessalonians 1:3–12 (ESV)**

The Framework

The actual prayer in this passage is found in v.11-12, but the previous verses set the stage for what he prays in these verses.

Thankfulness for Signs of Grace

What do we commonly give thanks for?

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More often than not, our thanksgiving seems to be _____.

In contrast, Paul's thanksgiving is for _____

1. Paul gives thanks that _____ (v. 3).

2. Paul gives thanks that _____ (v. 3).

3. Paul gives thanks that _____ (v.4)

- **What is he boasting in?**

How does all this relate to prayer?

How does what Paul gives thanks for compare to what you give thanks for?

Confidence in the Prospect of Vindication

- Two themes are introduced here:
 - **The _____ of God**
 - **The _____ of the Thessalonians**

1. For believers, there will be _____. (v. 6,10)

2. For others, there will be _____. (v. 6-10)

- **This idea of retribution stands at the very heart of the Christian gospel.**
How is this so?

What other New Testament teaching can you think of that encourages us to live (and pray!) with eternity's values in view?