

1 Thessalonians 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

Analysis

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers—Paul's thanksgiving contrasts sharply with Galatians (which has no thanksgiving section) because the Thessalonians remained faithful despite persecution. The phrase eucharistoumen tō Theō pantote (εὐχαριστοῦμεν τῷ Θεῷ πάντοτε, 'we give thanks always') establishes thanksgiving as continuous duty, not occasional sentiment. Paul's mneia (μνεία, 'remembrance/mention') means more than casual thought—it's deliberate, intercessory remembrance before God.

The plural 'we' includes Silvanus and Timothy, demonstrating apostolic teamwork in prayer. Paul models pastoral care: grateful intercession precedes correction. His 'always... in our prayers' echoes Jesus's command to 'pray without ceasing' (5:17), showing prayer as the atmosphere of Christian life, not isolated events. For a church planted in persecution and nurtured from distance, prayer was the lifeline sustaining faith.

Historical Context

Paul had been forcibly separated from the Thessalonians just weeks after founding the church, unable to return due to Satanic hindrance (2:17-18). He sent Timothy from Athens to check on them (3:1-2), fearing persecution had destroyed their faith. Timothy's return with good news prompted this letter of thanksgiving and instruction. The constant prayer Paul mentions was not hyperbole—the missionary team maintained unceasing intercession for this endangered young church.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Who are you thanking God for 'always' in your prayers, and how does gratitude shape your intercession for them?
2. How does Paul's pattern of grateful prayer before instruction challenge contemporary pastoral approaches focused on problem-solving?
3. What spiritual disciplines help you move from scheduled prayer times to 'making mention' of people continuously before God?

Interlinear Text

Εὐχαριστοῦμεν τῷ θεῷ πάντοτε περὶ πάντων ὑμῶν,

We give thanks to God always for all you

G2168

G3588

to God

G2316

always

G3842

for

G4012

all

G3956

you

G5216

μνείαν ὑμῶν, ποιούμενοι ἐπὶ τῷ προσευχῶν ἡμῶν

mention you making of you in prayers our

G3417

G5216

G4160

of you in

G3588

prayers

our

G2257

Additional Cross-References

Philemon 1:4 (Kingdom): I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

Colossians 1:3 (Prayer): We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

1 Corinthians 1:4 (References God): I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

