

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

Analysis

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you—Finally (to loipon, τὸ λοιπόν, 'for the rest') transitions to closing exhortations. Paul requests **pray for us** (proseuchesthe peri hēmōn, προσεύχεσθε περὶ ἡμῶν)—apostles need prayer support. The petition: **that the word of the Lord may have free course** (ho logos tou Kyriou trechē, ὁ λόγος τοῦ Κυρίου τρέχῃ, 'run' like an athlete).

And be glorified (doxazētai, δοξάζηται)—honored, acclaimed. **Even as it is with you**—the Thessalonians' reception of the gospel exemplifies what Paul desires everywhere. God's word advances or stalls based on reception. Prayer removes obstacles, enabling rapid spread and glorious reception of truth.

Historical Context

Paul likely wrote from Corinth, facing fierce Jewish opposition (Acts 18:5-6, 12-13). He needed prayer for protection and effectiveness. The gospel's advance wasn't automatic but required both divine power and human intercession. Ancient travel and communication barriers made prayer vital.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What specific gospel workers and missionaries are you consistently praying for by name?
2. How does your church reception of God's word either glorify or hinder it?
3. What obstacles currently hinder the word's 'free course' in your community?

Interlinear Text

Tὸ λοιπὸν προσεύχεσθε ἀδελφοί περὶ ἡμῶν ἵνα ὁ
G3588 Finally pray brethren for us that G3588
G3063 G4336 G80 G4012 G2257 G2443

λόγος τοῦ κυρίου τρέχῃ καὶ δοξάζηται καθὼς
the word G3588 of the Lord may have free course and be glorified as
G3056 G2962 G5143 G2532 G1392 G2531

καὶ πρὸς ὑμᾶς
and it is with you
G2532 G4314 G5209

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:25 (Prayer): Brethren, pray for us.

Colossians 4:3 (Prayer): Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

1 Corinthians 16:9 (Parallel theme): For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

Acts 19:20 (Word): So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

1 Thessalonians 1:8 (Word): For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Prayer): Pray without ceasing.

Acts 12:24 (Word): But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Acts 6:7 (Word): And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Psalms 138:2 (Word): I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Romans 15:30 (Prayer): Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

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