

2 Thessalonians 3:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

Analysis

And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ—Paul prays **the Lord direct your hearts** (ho Kyrios kateuthynai hymas tas kardias, ὁ Κύριος κατευθύναι ὑμᾶς τὰς καρδίας, 'may the Lord make straight your hearts'). The goal: **into the love of God** (eis tēn agapēn tou Theou, εἰς τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ Θεοῦ)—probably God's love for us (objective genitive), though loving God (subjective) is also implied.

And into the patient waiting for Christ (kai eis tēn hypomonēn tou Christou, καὶ εἰς τὴν ὑπομονὴν τοῦ Χριστοῦ)—either 'patient endurance like Christ's' or 'steadfast waiting for Christ.' Probably both. Hearts wander; God must redirect them toward His love and Christ's return. Proper eschatology produces patience, not panic.

Historical Context

The Thessalonians' eschatological confusion (2:2) produced either panicked idleness or discouragement. Paul redirects focus to God's faithful love and patient endurance until Christ's actual return. Right doctrine yields right living.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What misdirection of heart currently needs the Lord to 'make straight' in your life?
2. How does meditating on God's love for you sustain patient endurance?
3. How does your view of Christ's return affect your daily work ethic and priorities?

Interlinear Text

Ο	δὲ	κύριος	κατευθύναι	ύμῶν	τὰς	καρδίας	εἰς	τὴν
G3588	And	the Lord	direct	your	G3588	hearts	into	G3588
G1161		G2962	G2720	G5216		G2588		G1519
ἀγάπην	τοῦ	θεοῦ	καὶ	εἰς	ύπομονὴν	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ	
the love	G3588	of God	and	into	the patient waiting	G3588	for Christ	
G26		G2316	G2532	G1519	G5281		G5547	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:36 (Parallel theme): Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

1 Chronicles 29:18 (References God): O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:

Deuteronomy 30:6 (Love): And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

1 John 4:19 (Love): We love him, because he first loved us.

1 Corinthians 8:3 (Love): But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

Proverbs 3:6 (Parallel theme): In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Jeremiah 31:33 (References God): But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1 Thessalonians 3:11 (References Christ): Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

Hebrews 9:28 (References Christ): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Psalms 119:5 (Parallel theme): O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

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