

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are captured in motion, crossing the street. Their shadows are cast long and dark on the pavement, indicating bright, direct sunlight. The people are dressed in casual summer attire. One person in the upper right is looking at a phone, another in the center is carrying a bag, and one in the lower right is holding a blue umbrella. The overall scene is busy and urban.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Good Tidings of Great Joy”
(Part 2)**

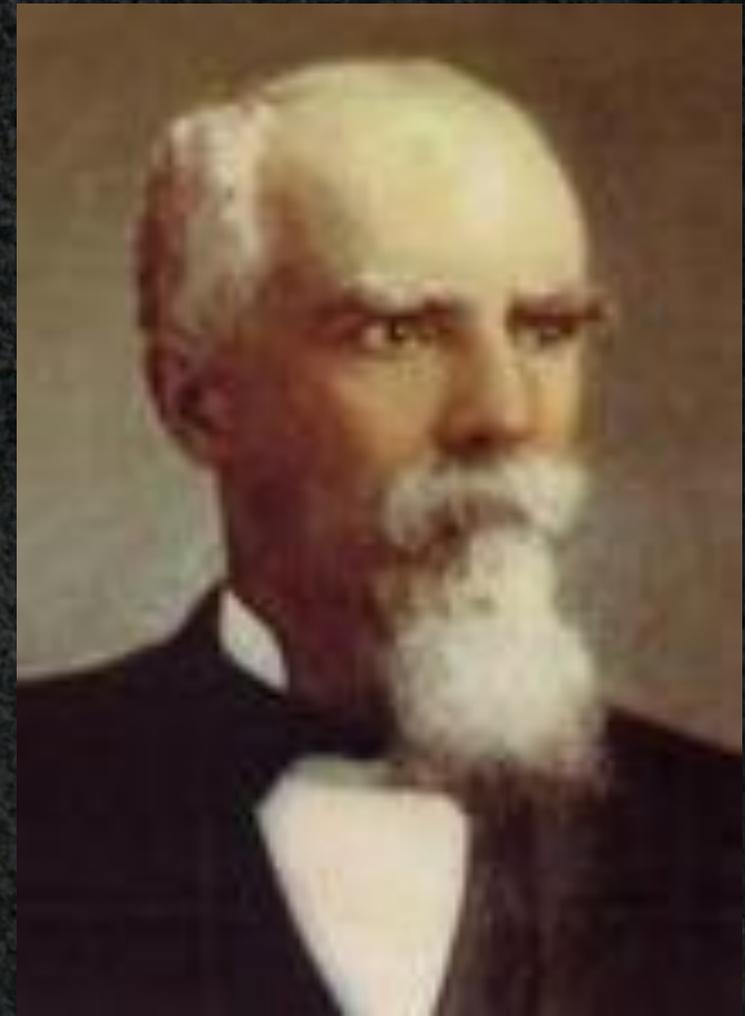
I THESSALONIANS 3:11-13

“If you are not praying, then you are quietly confident that time, money, and talent are all you need in life. You’ll always be a little too tired, a little too busy. But if, like Jesus, you realize you can’t do life on your own, than no matter how busy, no matter how tired you are, you will find the time to pray.”



Paul Miller
A Praying Life

“Nonpraying is lawlessness,
discord, anarchy.
Prayer, in the moral
government of God,
is as strong and far-reaching
as the law of gravitation in the
material world,
and it is as necessary as
gravitation to hold things in
their proper sphere and in life.”



E.M. Bounds
The Reality of Prayer

“Ah, if I could only pray the way that dog looks at meat. All his thoughts are on that morsel. He thinks, wishes, and hopes about nothing else. But my heart fails because it cannot hold to prayer without wandering.”



Martin Luther

1. Rejoice in the spiritual progress of others (vs. 6-8)

- a. Timothy's Report (vs 6)
- b. Paul's Encouragement (vs. 7-8)

2. Pray for the spiritual progress of others (vs. 9-10)

- a. By Thanking God (vs. 9)
- b. By Interceding for Others (vs. 10)
 - 1. Paul asks God for a face-to-face reunion (vs. 10-11).

- Wish prayer – “Let God arise” (Ps 68:1)
- Direct prayer – “Arise, O Lord” (Num 10:35)

A Tense Worth Understanding – Optative

- After Satan came into Eden (Gen 3:15)
- When Jesus gave His disciples power over demons (Matt 10:1)
- When God will crush Satan under His own divine feet (Rom 16:20)
- When all evil rulers and authorities would see the triumph of the Lord over them (Col 2:15)
- Jesus destroying the works of the devil (I John 3:8)
- When the Devil would be thrown down into eternal fire (Rev 12:10; 20:10)

When God Overcomes Satan

1. Rejoice in the spiritual progress of others (vs. 6-8)

- a. Timothy's Report (vs 6)
- b. Paul's Encouragement (vs. 7-8)

2. Pray for the spiritual progress of others (vs 9-10)

- a. By Thanking God (vs. 9)
- b. By Interceding for Others (vs. 10)
 - 1. Paul asks God for a face-to-face reunion (vs. 10a; 11).
 - 2. Paul asks for their faith to strengthen (vs. 10b).

KEY POINT:

God deserves glory when there is measurable spiritual progression.

1. Rejoice in the spiritual progress of others (vs. 6-8)

- a. Timothy's Report (vs 6)
- b. Paul's Encouragement (vs. 7-8)

2. Pray for the spiritual progress of others (vs 9-10)

- a. By Thanking God (vs. 9)
- b. By Interceding for Others (vs. 10)
 - 1. Paul asks God for a face-to-face reunion (vs. 10a; 11).
 - 2. Paul asks for their faith to strengthen (vs. 10b).
 - 3. Paul asks for their love to increase (vs. 12).

*34 A new commandment I give to
you, that you love one another:
just as I have loved you,
you also are to love one another.
35 By this all people will know that
you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”*

John 13:34-35

“Love is the mark that Jesus gives to label a Christian not just in one area or in one locality but at all times and all places until Jesus returns.”



Francis Schaeffer
The Mark of the Christian

- We are to outdo one another with our love (Rom 12:10).
- To love one another is to fulfill the whole law of God (Rom 13:8).
- We must love our brothers over our own freedoms (Gal 5:14-22).
- Love is a fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22).
- When we are shown evil, we are to show love (I Thess 5:15).
- Forgiveness is one of the best evidences of love (I Pet 4:8).
- You cannot be a Christian and not be loving (I John 2:9-11; 3:11-14).

Love in the Bible

“Genuine Christian love...is the one thing in the Christian life which cannot be carried to excess.”



D. Edmond Hiebert
1&II Thessalonians

1. Rejoice in the spiritual progress of others (vs. 6-8)

- a. Timothy's Report (vs 6)
- b. Paul's Encouragement (vs. 7-8)

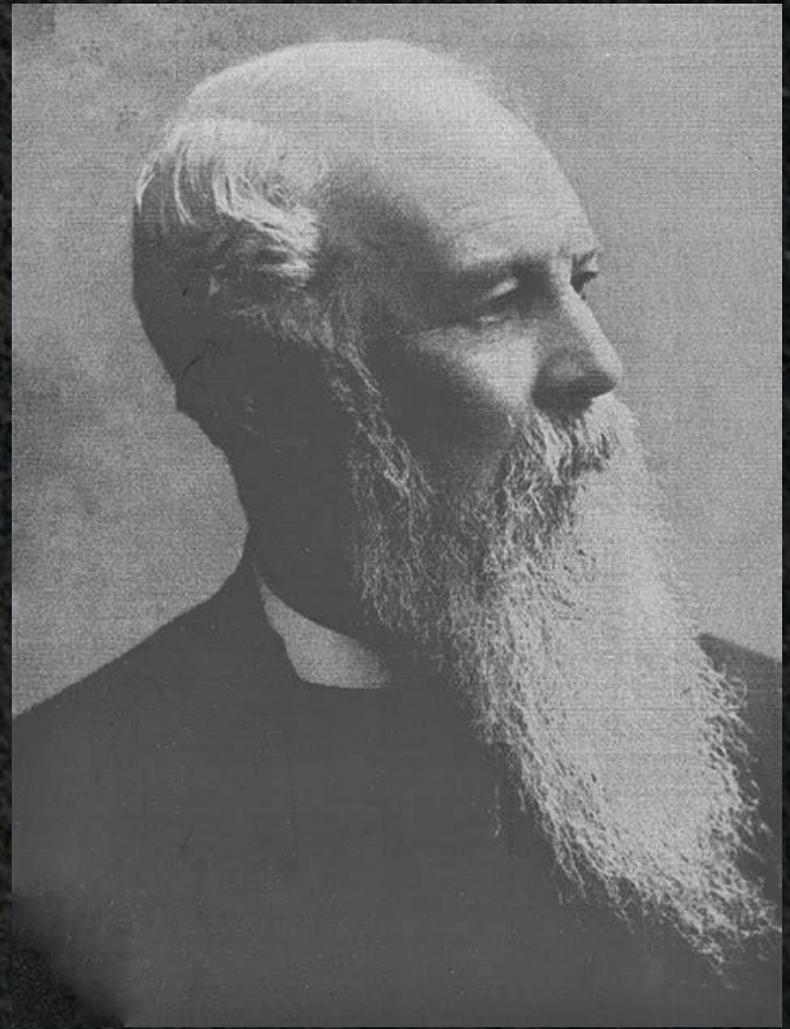
2. Pray for the spiritual progress of others (vs 9-10)

- a. By Thanking God (vs. 9)
- b. By Interceding for Others (vs. 10)
 - 1. Paul asks God for a face-to-face reunion (vs. 10a; 11).
 - 2. Paul asks for their faith to strengthen (vs. 10b).
 - 3. Paul asks for their love to increase (vs. 12).
 - 4. Paul asks for their holiness to increase (vs. 13).

- Holiness. Means “to cut away” or “to set apart.”
- Blameless. Means “to remain holy.”

Holiness vs. Blameless

“Heaven is essentially a holy place; its inhabitants are all holy; its occupations are all holy. To be really happy in heaven, it is clear and plain that we must be somewhat trained and made ready for heaven while we are on earth... we must be saints before we die, if we are to be saints afterwards in glory.”



J.C. Ryle
Holiness

“When we pray for people,
we must do so knowing that
these people,
and we ourselves,
are inevitably moving
towards the last day.

When we pray with
eternity’s values in view,
we are driven to pray for
people, because people like
you and me are the ones
who must given account to
God on the last day.”



D.A Carson
Praying with Paul

*¹ After the uproar ceased,
Paul sent for the disciples,
and after encouraging them,
he said farewell and departed for
Macedonia. ² When he had gone
through those regions and had given
them much encouragement, he
came to Greece.*

Acts 20:1-2

*³ There he spent three months,
and when a plot was made against
him by the Jews as he was about
to set sail for Syria, he decided to
return through Macedonia.*

Acts 20:3

*⁴ Sopater the Berean,
son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him;
and of the Thessalonians,
Aristarchus and Secundus;
and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy;
and the Asians,
Tychicus and Trophimus.*

Acts 20:4

“If I can do nothing else,
I can pray for people.
I can ask God to help others
when I cannot.

Prayer must never be a
justification for failing to
help others.

Yet some circumstances
are out of our hands,
and only God knows how
help should be given.
In these situations we can
nothing but pray.”



W. Bingham Hunter
The God Who Hears

*Moreover, as for me,
far be it from me that I should sin
against the LORD by ceasing to
pray for you, and I will instruct you
in the good and the right way.*

I Samuel 12:23