



TITLE:

Pray for Us

TEXT:

Hebrews 13:18-25

INTRODUCTION

- In the final chapters of Hebrews, specifically chapters 12 and 13, Paul delivers his concluding exhortations to the Jewish believers. These include:
 - Exhortation to endure sufferings.
 - Warning against apostasy.
 - Exhortations about brotherly love, marriage, and contentment.
 - Exhortation to the church members in their relation to the church leaders.
 - Exhortation to be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines.
 - Exhortation to offer the sacrifice of praise.

PRAY FOR US (v.18-19)

- Paul exhorted the Jewish believers to pray for them - for himself, for them that have the rule over them (v.17), and for Timothy (v.23).
- Two underlying reasons:
 1. For we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.
 - Paul and his companion are convinced of their upright living, seeking the believers' support through prayer.
 - Their commitment extends to living honestly and uprightly in every facet of life.
 2. That I may be restored to you the sooner.
 - Despite being physically distant, Paul expresses a desire for a prompt return to the believers or a restoration to their previous closeness.
 - Although he was once present among them, he now finds himself separated from their fellowship.
- Emphasizing the importance of praying for one another, especially those who minister to us.
- Acknowledging the significance of prayer partnerships, as seen in Paul's request for believers to pray for him.
- Highlighting the transformative power of prayer, exemplified by Paul's hope for a swifter reunion with the believers.

PRAYER TO THE BELIEVERS (v.20-21)

- In these two verses, Paul expresses his prayer on behalf of the Jewish believers.
- God of peace.
 - God is the author and promoter of peace.
 - We, who are sinners are now in peace with the holy God.
- God brought our Lord Jesus again from the dead.
 - The resurrection of Jesus assures us that God has the power to answer our prayers.
- Jesus Christ is the Great Shepherd of the sheep.
 - He serves as the mediator for our prayers.
 - While ministers are under-shepherds, Christ holds the position of the Great Shepherd.
- Prayer is through the blood of the everlasting covenant.
 - The sole reason God accepts human prayers is the redemptive blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Paul's prayer for the believers: To make you perfect in every good work to do His will.
 - To make fully ready, to put in full order, to make complete in every good work for us to do God's will for our lives.
- How God makes His people perfect; is by working in them what is pleasing in His sight, and that is through Jesus Christ.
 - This process is not dependent on our strength or abilities but is achieved through Jesus Christ.

- Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.
 - All glory belongs to Jesus Christ, now and forever.
- Amen.
 - So it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled.

SALUTATION (v.22-25)

- And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation
 - Paul is exhorting the believers to suffer or to listen, to sustain, or to bear the word of exhortation - refers to the entire epistle of Hebrews.
 - The epistle serves as a message of encouragement, consolation, and comfort.
 - Paul wrote the epistle in few words.
 - This doesn't imply that this Epistle is short in comparison to others the author has written, as many of Paul's Epistles are actually shorter than this one.
 - Rather, it signifies that the Epistle is concise when considering the significance and complexity of the subjects he addressed.
- Paul gives the account of Timothy's liberty and his hopes of seeing them with him in a little time.
- Paul exhorted them to salute or greet the rulers and the saints.
- The companions of Paul in Italy salute the Jewish believers.
 - This tells that Paul was in Rome when he wrote the epistle.
- Grace be with you all.
 - Paul's benediction.
- Amen.
 - So it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled.