

### **Article: Trust in the Lord!**

From our Second Reading for today, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13, We read how Paul tells the congregation he planted in Thessalonica to pray that *"the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be honoured, just as it has also with you."* Paul commands that they pray because he knows that *"the Lord is faithful"* (v 3a). The Lord's desire and design for His children is to strengthen and protect them from *"the Evil One"* (v 3b), just as we pray in the Lord's Prayer that we may be delivered from evil, or, more literally, from the Evil One. When Paul was wearied or perplexed or downtrodden or near death, he still had a loving Father and a Saviour whose atoning blood was shed for him. So do we.

We ought to have confidence in the Lord's faithfulness because His record is solid. Which of His promises has failed? The promise that the Seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head? The promise that in the Seed of Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed? The promise that death would not find anyone inside the homes on which the lambs' blood was smeared on the doorposts? The promise that the Virgin would conceive and bear a Son? The promise that the Holy One of God would not see corruption? Which of His divine and everlasting promises has failed? Not a single one! All the promises of God find in our Lord Jesus their Yes and their Amen to God's eternal glory!

His record is solid, and His faithfulness is sure. Not a single day in our life has been lived apart from His care and love. We may have always known that care and that love. We may not have always known or not always appreciated or not always cared about that care and that love. He did not take it from us. He never left us or forsook us. May the Lord direct our hearts to God's love so richly and eternally displayed in the cross of Jesus, where we see for ourselves how strongly His fatherly love has sought us! If God were anything other than a loving Father, He would not have sent His Son, Jesus, to the cross for us, laying on the God-man's shoulders our sin, our complaining, our complaining, our fear, our cowardice, our indifference, our shallowness and pettiness. God did not count those trespasses against us but made peace by the blood of Jesus' cross so that we and Paul and all the saints might say together, *"Therefore, we have peace with God!"* (cf Rom 5:1).

Peace with a loving God will direct our hearts to the steadfastness of Christ. The world swirls and changes constantly. It did in Paul's day. It does in ours. We don't have to be confident that "it will all work out." We don't have to be confident that everything we ever wanted will someday fall into our lap. No such life is promised in the Bible, so we don't need to worry about the fact that it didn't happen. What is promised and seen in the Bible is that Jesus Christ is steadfast. Everything changes; everything comes and goes; the surest things and the surest friends are here today and gone tomorrow. Life fades like a dream, and all flesh is like grass, growing, fading, dying. But the Word of the Lord endures forever. The world will turn and change, but Christ is the same today, yesterday, and forever.

So we won't have a bad day or a bad week or a bad month or a bad year in which God is not our loving Father and Christ is not our steadfast Saviour. We won't face a little difficulty or a big bill or a temporary inconvenience or an accident that changes life forever without a Father who sees and knows our every need and a Brother who was Himself perfected through suffering. We shall not see a single sunrise without knowing the Father who has set the sun and the moon and the stars in the heavens and the Saviour who is fairer and brighter than the sun. Trust in the Lord!