

A Passion for People (1 Thessalonians 3:9-13)

Like many others, but especially in this passage, Paul's prayer shows his deep concern for his readers. We see this not only in the prayer itself, but in the verses leading up to the prayer.

Paul's Prayer: A Product of Passion for People 1 Thessalonians 2:17–3:8 (ESV)

1. Paul's prayer arises out of _____.

- **What is Paul's history with the Thessalonians?** (Acts 17:1-9)

2. Paul's prayer arises out _____.

- **How does this mirror what Christ did for us?**

3. Paul's prayer springs from _____.

Paul's Prayer: A Continuing Passion for People 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 (ESV)

Keeping with the theme in the chapter, this prayer has been broken up around the question of how the people of God feature in this prayer.

1. Paul prays with _____.

In this prayer, there are two distinctive features worth pointing out:

- a) **Although the thanksgiving is not addressed to the Thessalonians, but rather to God for the Thessalonians, nevertheless it is _____**

b) Paul's thanks to God for the Thessalonian Christians is in some measure _____.

2. Paul prays that he might _____.

Three details in this request are worth extra attention:

a) Paul claims _____

- This is something Paul says regularly (1 Cor. 1:4; Phil 1:4; etc). **What does this mean?**

b) The burden of Paul's constant prayer _____.

c) Paul is aware of _____.

3. Paul prays that there might be _____.

4. Paul prays that these believers will be so _____ that they will be _____.

What is Paul's source of joy according to this passage? What is yours? How is our source of joy likely to be related to what we pray for?