

Noticeboard

OASIS meeting this coming Friday 9th February is **Pancake Games**. See Duncan or Amy for more info

Alpha course is starting on Wed 21st Feb
Bring a friend, meal included at 6pm followed by course at 7.30pm.
Contact Nigel Bird for more information
01209 822270

House Groups are important to the Church Life. Small groups are an ideal way to get to know one another on a deeper level. If you are interested in joining a group see Doreen Fraser or Hanna Oakes

Baptism Service 18th Feb
Jimena, Isaac and Natania Adewole will be baptised here at Emmanuel during the morning service

Date for your Diary
We are holding a church prayer meeting here at Emmanuel on Tuesday 27th February at 7.30pm.

- Foodbank needs:**
- TINNED POTATOES
 - LONG-LIFE WHOLE MILK
 - TINNED HAM
 - CAT FOOD
 - SHAMPOO
 - SHAVING FOAM
 - TOILET ROLLS

Prayer & Praise Evenings
Starting on Sunday 11th February
7-8pm. here at Emmanuel.

Food for Thought
This Thurs 8th February is an Open Meeting. Starts at 2.30pm

Sunday 4th February 2017

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to know each other better, so please introduce yourself. If you can, join us for refreshments after the service.

11am **Children and youth groups leave**
Nippers: 2-4 years
Buzz: Reception - Year Five
Salt: Year Six - Year 13

Prayer Ministry

Members of the Prayer Ministry Team wear ministry badges. Please speak to one of them if you would like prayer for any reason.

Sunday 11th February

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**

7pm **Prayer & Praise**

Main Door Bryan Green

Inner Door Chris & Wendy Tabb

Easy Worship TBA

Coffees Before Service Terry & Lynne Pellow

After Service TBA

The Church office

Open Monday–Friday, 9.30am–12.30pm

Telephone 01326 315249

Email mail@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Website www.emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Minister Rev'd Charles Blizzard

Sermon outline notes: Learning to Pray from Paul Part 4
2 Thessalonians 1: 3–12

Introduction

Paul had 'planted' the church at Thessalonica on his second missionary journey (see Acts 17: 1 –9). Scholars consider that the two letters we have from Paul to the Thessalonian Christians are early letters and have in these letters a glimpse of a young church.

1) The Framework of the Prayer—verses 3–10

a) Thankfulness for signs of grace -verses 3-4. Thanksgiving is a fundamental component that controls Paul's intercession.

- Paul gives thanks that:-
 - 1) his readers faith is growing.
 - 2) that their love for one another is increasing.
 - 3) they are persevering under trial and opposition.
- Paul is able to use the Thessalonian Christians as an example to other Christians—verse 4.

b) Confidence in the prospect of vindication and retribution—verses 5-10.

- For believers there is vindication— verse 7, for others there will be retribution— verse 6.

These two things vindication and retribution will happen at the second coming of Jesus- The Lord's return.

2) Paul's Petitions—verses 11-12

a) Paul prays that God may count/make Christians worthy of his calling. He is not saying here that the Thessalonians might somehow become worthy enough to be called. Rather it is that they have already been called and now Paul prays that they might live up to that calling. We are already children of God because of God's grace, now we must live up to that calling. We are not strong enough to do this ourselves, and that's why Paul prays as he does—he prays for God to so work in their lives to make them worthy!

- b)** Paul prays that God by his power might bring to fulfilment our good faith prompted purposes.
- What Paul has in mind here is that Christians develop a new set of goals, a new set of purposes and as we do that Paul asks that God by his power may fulfil every good purpose.

3) The Goal of Paul's Prayer-verse 12

There is a two part goal:-

- a)** The glorification of Jesus—the ultimate end is that Jesus be glorified as a consequence of the growing maturity and faithfulness of believers.
- b)** The glorification of believers—'and you in him'. One day Christians will be made perfect; one day they will enjoy resurrection bodies, one day they will live in the splendour of a new heaven and a new earth. But even now that final transformation is prefaced by a whole series of transformations (glorified) as we become increasingly conformed to the likeness of Christ, in anticipation of the climactic glorification at the end.

Conclusion

Paul is not praying that the Thessalonian Christians simply try harder! Paul is deeply aware that the things he prays for must be in the final analysis be God's grace at work.