

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23 – Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3/4/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente

Refiner's Fire – Purify My Heart

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.

Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

(Chorus) - Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire is to be...holy; set apart for You, Lord. I choose to be...holy; set apart for You, my Master, ready to do Your will.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

We see a repeat and expansion of the last petition in last week's prayer: **1 Thess.3:11-13** “...perfect what is lacking in your faith...so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”

Here in the benediction of the letter, blessing and admonition!

1Th 5:23a - “Now may:

- **the God of peace Himself** The God characterized by peace in His nature, who gladly bestows it also. Common phrase at close of Paul's Epistles
- **sanctify you** To render or to declare holy, to consecrate, to separate from things profane. The idea behind the word sanctify is “to set apart” - to make something different and distinct, breaking old associations and forming a new association.
- **completely** It means the whole of each of you, every part of each of you, “through and through”

1Th 5:23b - “and may:

- **your whole spirit and soul and body** Not necessarily trichotomy as opposed to dichotomy as elsewhere in Paul's Epistles. Both believers and unbelievers have an inner man (soul *psuchē*, mind *nous*, heart *kardia*), the inward man and the outer man. But the believer has the Holy Spirit of God, the renewed spirit of man
- **May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved:** We may receive this order as inspired. God intends there to be a hierarchy within the human person, ordered first with the spirit, then with the soul, and finally with the body.
- Paul's main thought here is that the *entire* person is set apart and preserved by God, complete in **spirit, soul, and body**. God saves our body as much as our spirit or soul, and the body has a definite and important role in the whole plan of salvation - to be resurrected into a new body.
- Yet, God designed the human to live after the order of **spirit, soul, and body** instead of *body, soul, spirit*. We are to sublimate the needs of the *body* to the *soul*, and the needs of both *body and soul* to the needs of the *spirit*.
- **be preserved** Paul conceives of the man as “an undivided whole”; A prayer for the consecration of both body and soul (cf. *1 Corinthians 6*). There is to be no deficiency in any part. *Teleios* (from *telos*, end) means final perfection.
- **blameless** Without blame, only in 1 Thess. in N.T. (*1Th 2:10; 1Th 3:13; 1Th 5:23*). *Col 1:22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—*

- **at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** The Second Coming which was a sustaining hope to Paul as it should be to us and mentioned often in this Epistle (1Th 2:19). How the Second Coming was emphasized to the Thessalonians!!
- The soon, second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ! - May we be ready!
- Remaining and keeping yourself –(all of yourself - spirit, soul and body) - pure, blameless!
- Prayer, brotherly love, and attention to the Word of God will sanctify us and keep us ready for Christ's return.
- Paul began the epistle “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He ends it “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
- It's all by His grace – May we keep ourselves pure! --walking in the Spirit as we allow our lives to be impacted by His Word and prayer every day!

Summary: -

- Paul's prayer here, emphasized two things that are important for every Christian today:
- First, he prayed *may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely.*
- Paul's second request was *may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- Paul wanted to see these people **completely set apart and kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

Pray Today For:

Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and proposed Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. Cabinet Members: Sec. of State – Rex Tillerson; Energy – Rick Perry; Interior – Ryan Zinke; Defense – James Mattis; Treasury – Steven Mnuchin; Attorney General – Jeff Sessions; HUD – Ben Carson; Commerce – Wilbur Ross; Health & Human Services – Tom Price; Education – Betsy DeVos; Trans. – Elaine Chou; U.N Ambassador – Nikki Haley; Labor – OPEN; Homeland Security – Gen. John Kelly; EPA – Scott Pruitt; Budget – Mick Mulvaney; SBA – Linda McMahon; Cabinet Level Officials: – Reince Priebus; Nat'l Security Advisor – OPEN; Chief Strategist – Stephen Bannon; White House Council – Donald McGahn; Counselor to Pres. – Kellyanne Conway; Press Sec. Sean Spicer; Agriculture – Sonny Perdue; Vet. Affairs – Donald Shulkin; C.I.A. Director – Mike Pompeo; Amb. to Israel – David Friedman; Nat Econ Council Dir. – Gary Cohn; Nat. Intell. – Dan Coats; US Trade Rep. – Robert Lighthizer; Sr. Adv. to Pres. – Jared Kushner; Homeland Sec. Adv. – Thomas Bossert; Spec. Adv. Reg. Reform – Carl Icahn; Dir. Trade Policy – Peter Navarro; Cyber Security – Rudy Giuliani

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