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978-0-521-04835-4 - Paul's Intercessory Prayers: The Significance of the
Intercessory Prayer Passages in the Letters of St Paul

Gordon P. Wiles

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
THE INTERCESSORY PRAYER
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THE LETTERS OF ST PAUL

GORDON P. WILES

*Professor of Religion
Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut*



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[More information](#)

CONTENTS

	<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> ix
	<i>Texts and Abbreviations</i>	xi
1	Introductory	1
	Paul's complex ministry and its intercessory aspects	1
2	Intercessory prayer material in Paul's letters	6
	Some methodological problems	6
	Selection and classification of the passages	11
	Terms for intercessory prayer and the intercessor	18
3	Intercessory wish-prayers: their background and form	22
	General liturgical background of the principal wish-prayers	23
	Ancient epistolary background	28
	Formal characteristics	29
4	Function of the wish-prayers in I Thessalonians	45
	Background and purpose of I Thessalonians	45
	Survey of the prayer passages	51
	The first wish-prayer – I Thess. 3: 11–13	52
	The second wish-prayer – I Thess. 5: 23f.	63
	Varied purposes of the two wish-prayers	68
5	Function of the wish-prayers in Romans, I Corinthians, and Philippians	72
	The wish-prayers in Romans	72
	Background and purpose of the letter	72
	Survey of the prayer passages	76
	Two related wish-prayers – Rom. 15: 5f., and 15: 13	77
	Rom. 15: 33 and 16: 20a	90

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-04835-4 - Paul's Intercessory Prayers: The Significance of the
Intercessory Prayer Passages in the Letters of St Paul

Gordon P. Wiles

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

Two other possible wish-prayers	<i>page</i> 97
I Cor. 1: 8f.	97
Phil. 4: 19	101
6 Blessings and curses	108
Epistolary greetings	108
The opening benedictions	108
The closing benedictions	114
Curses and a 'pronouncement blessing'	116
A curse and a pronouncement blessing in Galatians	122
Survey of the prayer passages	125
Gal. 1: 8f.	126
Gal. 6: 16	129
Two curse passages in I Corinthians	135
Survey of the prayer passages	140
I Cor. 5: 3–5	142
I Cor. 16: 22	150
7 Intercessory prayer-reports: their form and function	156
Formal characteristics of the prayer-reports	157
Preliminary functional considerations	165
Appended Note 1: Prayer-words and syntactical constructions in the prayer-reports	173
8 Function of the prayer-reports in the thanksgiving periods	175
I Thess. 1: 2b–3	175
I Thess. 3: 10	183
Rom. 1: 9f.	186
The divided prayer-report in Philippians – 1: 4 and 1: 9–11	194
Survey of the prayer passages	202
The divided prayer-report in Philemon – vv. 4b and 6	215
Survey of the prayer passages	217
A prayer-report surrogate – II Cor. 1: 7	226

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-04835-4 - Paul's Intercessory Prayers: The Significance of the
Intercessory Prayer Passages in the Letters of St Paul

Gordon P. Wiles

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

9	Function of the prayer-reports in the body of the letters	<i>page</i> 230
	Two prayer-reports in II Corinthians	230
	Survey of the prayer passages	238
	II Cor. 13: 7, 9b	241
	II Cor. 9: 14	248
	Two prayer-reports in Romans	253
	Rom. 9: 3	255
	Rom. 10: 1	257
10	Requests and exhortations about intercessory prayer	259
	Requests for prayer	259
	Formal characteristics and background	259
	Function of the prayer-requests	261
	I Thess. 5: 25	261
	Rom. 15: 30–2	263
	II Cor. 1: 11	271
	Phil. 1: 19f.	276
	Philem. 22b	281
	Exhortations about prayer	284
	I Thess. 5: 17f.	285
	Phil. 4: 6	286
	Rom. 12: 12c, 14	289
	I Cor. 7: 5	291
	Appended Note 2: Syntactical and other stylistic marks of the prayer-requests	292
11	Concluding statement	293
Appendixes		
I	Prayer passages in the Pauline epistles	297
II	Passages referring to intercessory prayer in the Pauline epistles	298
III	Classified inventory of intercessory prayer passages	299

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-04835-4 - Paul's Intercessory Prayers: The Significance of the
Intercessory Prayer Passages in the Letters of St Paul

Gordon P. Wiles

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

IV Liturgically oriented closing pattern, tabulation of principal features	<i>page</i> 301
Bibliography	303
<i>Index of passages cited</i>	319
<i>Index of authors</i>	338
<i>Index of subjects</i>	343

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-04835-4 - Paul's Intercessory Prayers: The Significance of the
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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

My attention was first drawn to the intercessory prayers of the New Testament, particularly in the letters of Paul, by what seemed to be an acute 'crisis of piety' in the Christian church. Men can no longer pray. Even those for whom God remains a reality find prayer an unreality. It is within that context that the present study was begun.

The basis of this monograph is a doctoral dissertation presented to the Yale University faculty in 1965, 'The Function of Intercessory Prayer in Paul's Apostolic Ministry with Special Reference to the First Epistle to the Thessalonians.' The material from that study, in revised form, constitutes about a third of the present work, which has been extended to include all seven recognized Pauline epistles.

I am deeply indebted to many for guidance and encouragement at all stages of the research: to Professors Nils A. Dahl, Paul Schubert, Paul Meyer, Floyd V. Filson, and especially to my dissertation adviser, Professor Paul S. Minear. Professor C. F. D. Moule has been unfailingly helpful. My thanks are due also to colleagues at Connecticut College who have willingly assisted in matters of style and in preparing the manuscript for publication, Professor Robert W. Jordan, Mrs Glenis Mollegen, and Professor Garrett D. Green; and to various students who have assisted in the typing and preparation of numerous drafts.

Finally, I express my gratitude to my wife, who has suffered through the growth of this work, and to whom it is affectionately dedicated.

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TEXTS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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- Biblia Hebraica*, ed. R. Kittel, P. Kahle *et al.*, 11th edn (Stuttgart, 1951).
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BIBLICAL TRANSLATIONS

- The Holy Bible. Revised Standard Version*. . . (New York, 1953).
The New English Bible (Oxford and Cambridge, 1961, 1970).
 The translation used throughout this work is the *Revised Standard Version*, unless otherwise indicated.

ABBREVIATIONS

- ATR* *Anglican Theological Review* (Evanston)
BGU *Aegyptische Urkunden aus den Koeniglichen Museen zu Berlin*. . .
Griechische Urkunden, 8 vols (Berlin, 1895–1933)
BJRL *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* (Manchester)
CGTC Cambridge Greek Testament Commentary
 E.Tr. English Translation
EphTL *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* (Louvain)
HNTC Harper's New Testament Commentaries
HTR *Harvard Theological Review* (Cambridge, Mass.)
HZNT *Handbuch zum Neuen Testament* (Tübingen)
IB *Interpreter's Bible*, general ed. G. A. Buttrick (New York and Nashville, 1952–6)
ICC International Critical Commentary
IDB *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, ed. G. A. Buttrick (New York and Nashville, 1962)

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- JBL* *Journal of Biblical Literature* (Missoula, Mont.)
JBR *Journal of Bible and Religion* (Missoula, Mont.)
JTS *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford)
Jud. *Judaica* (Zürich)
MNTC Moffatt New Testament Commentary
NEB New English Bible
NTD Das Neue Testament Deutsch (Göttingen)
RGG *Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart Handwörterbuch für Theologie und Religionswissenschaft*, ed. K. Galling *et al.*, 3rd edn (Tübingen, 1957–65)
RSPT *Revue des Sciences Philosophiques et Théologiques* (Paris)
RSR *Revue des Sciences Religieuses* (Strasbourg)
RSV Revised Standard Version
SBT *Studies in Biblical Theology* (London)
Scot. Journ. Theol. *Scottish Journal of Theology* (Edinburgh)
SNTSM Society of New Testament Studies Monograph Series (Cambridge)
TLZ *Theologische Literaturzeitung* (Leipzig)
TWNT *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament*, ed. G. Kittel, G. Friedrich *et al.*, vols I–VIII completed (Stuttgart, 1913–)
TZ *Theologische Zeitschrift* (Basel)
ZNW *Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft* (Berlin)
ZThK *Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche* (Tübingen)