

## **Steadfast** -Ryan Parsons-

Growing up near the Gulf of Mexico, I spent a lot of time on the water. However, I concentrated most of my time on bays, rivers, lakes and bayous. Why? It's because I'm not a big fan of offshore fishing. There isn't much more disconcerting than being miles away from shore on a small rocking boat unable to see anything but water. I can remember vividly our captain struggling to get the engine started so that we could head back home. As we drifted in the swells, I felt pretty hopeless. Thankfully, we made it back to shore, and nothing made me feel better than having my feet planted on the unmovable shore.

We often times feel the same way spiritually. The awkward shifts of culture, the uncertainties of life, and the pervasiveness of sin can give us the sense that we are out to sea in an inadequate craft. Paul had some exhortations to Christians who experienced this in their walk.

### **Colossians 1:23**

if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven...

### **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Two concerns existed for them.

1. Would they grow discouraged because of the challenges of being a Christian and the hostile culture around them? Paul tells them to not put their hope in the boat, but to hope in the solid foundation of Christ.
2. Would they cease to do the work of the Lord in the world because they had lost an eternal perspective? Heaven forbid! With the resurrection of Jesus Christ in view, they were to keep on keeping on.

One thing in which Paul encouraged those Christians was to continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving (Col. 4:2). With that in mind, let's consider this prayer:

Dear God,

Help us to remain steadfast as the world around us rages. May we always keep your promises in mind as we strive to do your work. When we feel uncertain and don't know what to do, may we cry out to you.

### **Psalm 61:1-3**

1 Hear my cry, O God,  
listen to my prayer;

2 from the end of the earth I call to you  
when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock  
that is higher than I,

3 for you have been my refuge,  
a strong tower against the enemy.

In Jesus' Name  
Amen!