



REFLECTIONS

November 1, 2020, From the Archives of February 16, 2014

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Always on My Mind

*Maybe I didn't love you, Quite as often as I could have
And maybe I didn't treat you, Quite as good as I should have
If I made you feel second best, ... I'm sorry I was blind
You were always on my mind, You were always on my mind.*

These words are taken from a song collaboratively written by Wayne Carson, Mark James, and Johnny Christopher, and performed by the likes of Willie Nelson, Elvis Presley, and Brenda Lee. The lyrics express regret for a relationship that was less than it could have been. Most likely the lines were not intended to address a relationship with Jesus, but couldn't we express them in a prayer of apology owed to our Lord and Savior—well, except for the title verse, “*You were always on my mind.*”

I'm not sure about you, but I'm sorry to say that Jesus is not always on my mind. Even on those days I pray for him to be there, distractions of everyday life redirect my conscious thoughts of Jesus into the mire of worldly issues. Yet, Paul instructs us to pray continually. It is a wonderful objective, but one I find difficult to practice. Truthfully, Jesus is not always on my mind as he should be. I feel sure, though, I am always on *his* mind, after all he promised to be with us always even to the end of the age. I wish I could say the same to him.

I know Jesus loves me always; he has blessed me far more than I deserve. He has insights into my smallest needs and has never made me feel I was second best. I am always on his mind. I am always on his mind.

Someday I will find myself standing before Jesus and I wonder about the words I will say to him. Surely, I will confess that I didn't love him as often as I could have or treat him as good as I should have. I know I have made him feel second best because too often I was blind to him. But what will the chorus be?

Today I pray for Jesus to always occupy his proper place on my mind—that I may be *joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will in Christ Jesus.*

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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