

## 2 THESSALONIANS 3 - “Pray for Us; Warning Against Idleness; Benediction”

### OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” under “Bible Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

#### 2 Thessalonians -- THE GODLY CHARACTER OF A PERSECUTED CHURCH --

##### INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER THREE!

The second coming of Christ is more than a doctrine to examine and study; it is a truth to grip our lives and make us better Christians. It is not enough to know about His coming or to believe it; we must practice it in daily life. Unfortunately, some of the believers at Thessalonica were abusing the doctrine of Christ's return. In this final chapter, Paul exhorted them to change their ways. There are three practical admonitions here.

**I. Pray and Be Patient (2Th 3:1-5); II. Work If You Want to Eat (2Th 3:6-13); III. Hear the Word and Do It (2Th 3:14-18)**

##### PRAYER IS SO IMPORTANT!! Importance of Praying for the Word of the Lord to Go Out!

2Th 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, Paul constantly asked other believers to pray for him (Rom 15:30,

2Co 1:11, Eph 6:18-19, Php 1:19, Col 4:3, 1Th 5:25, Phm 1:22).

Rom 15:30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

2Co 1:11 you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

Eph 6:18-19 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—[19] and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Php 1:19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Col 4:3-4 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, [4] that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

1Th 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.

Heb 13:18 Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.

##### Instances of Paul Praying for the Believers!

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

2Co 13:7 Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified.

2Co 13:9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.

Php 1:4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

Php 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

Col 1:3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

1Th 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

1Th 3:10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

2Th 1:11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,

Phm 1:4 I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers,

Heb 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

<p><b><u>2 THESSALONIANS 3 -</u></b> <b><u>“Pray for Us;</u></b></p> <p><i>2Th 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,</i></p> <p><i>2Th 3:2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.</i></p> <p><i>2Th 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.</i></p> <p><i>2Th 3:4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.</i></p> <p><i>2Th 3:5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts <u>into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.</u></i></p>	<p><b><u>v. 1</u></b> <i>Finally, brethren, pray for us:</i> Paul constantly asked other believers to pray for him (<u>Rom 15:30</u>, <u>2Co 1:11</u>, <u>Eph 6:18-19</u>, <u>Php 1:19</u>, <u>Col 4:3</u>, <u>1Th 5:25</u>, <u>Phm 1:22</u>). He knew the importance and impact prayer had on the success of his ministry. Also we constantly see Paul praying for the churches and the saints. <b><i>That the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified:</i></b> One of Paul’s great concerns that he asked the Thessalonians to pray for was that the <b><i>word of the Lord</i></b> be <b><i>free</i></b> to do its work among others, even as it had among them (<b><i>just as it is with you</i></b>). Paul asked for prayer so that the word can <b><i>run</i></b> freely, without any hindrance. God <i>has</i> promised that: <b><i>It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it (Isa 55:11)</i></b>. Still, we are expected to take this promise in faith, and ask prayer asking God to perform it for His glory.</p> <p><b><u>v. 2</u></b> <i>That we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men:</i> Those wicked ones who wanted to hinder the work of the gospel. Paul wanted God to either deliver him from such men, or change them into reasonable and godly men.</p> <p><b><u>v. 3</u></b> <i>But the Lord is faithful:</i> Even though not all men have faith, <b><i>the Lord is faithful!</i></b>. This was and is the basis of Paul’s confidence in God’s ability to establish and guard us from the evil one. God keeps Satan on a leash. <u><b><i>1Co 10:13</i></b></u> <i>No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.</i> He will not allow any temptation to become too great for us! He will not allow Satan to do whatever he wants to do with us (<u><b><i>Luk 22:31-32</i></b></u>).</p> <p><b><u>v. 4</u></b> <i>And we have confidence in the Lord:</i> Paul was also confident <b><i>in the Lord</i></b> regarding the Thessalonians themselves, that they would follow through and be obedient to God’s word <b><i>that you do and will do the things we command you</i></b>. This shows that God’s work of establishing and guarding us is done, in part, through His appeal to our will in obeying His word. God doesn’t just pour spiritual maturity and stability into us. He works it in us through our cooperation with His will.</p> <p><b><u>v. 5</u></b> <i>Now may the Lord direct your hearts:</i> Towards this end, Paul wisely prayed for both love and <b><i>patience</i></b> or endurance for the Thessalonians, two qualities are essential for the spiritual stability and strength the Thessalonians need. <b><i>into the patience of Christ.</i></b> How we need to learn to <b><u>patiently wait on the Lord</u></b>, He will work things out so perfectly! We often have the foolish notion that God can’t do it without our help. Abraham/Hagar! Rebekah/Jacob in birthright!</p>	<p><b><u>v. 1</u></b> Pray one for another. It is so important that we pray, especially for those that are in leadership. <b>How many times is the work of God hindered by our prayerlessness?</b></p> <p><b><u>v. 2</u></b> Note the good example of Paul with regard to the wicked men: <b>He is asking the Lord for deliverance or to change them into godly and reasonable men.</b> Even the great Apostle Paul had detractors! We will have those opposed to us! We are not to argue with unreasonable people!</p> <p><b><u>v. 3</u></b> Oh, the faithfulness of God in establishing us! <b>The faithfulness of God in strengthening us and keeping us from evil! Are we really aware of His faithfulness in establishing us and guarding us from the evil one?</b></p> <p><b><u>v. 4</u></b> How faithful in our Christian walk are we to the confidence that Paul had in the Thessalonians that they both do and will do the things commanded here? <b>Are we faithfully doing these things?</b></p> <p><b><u>v. 5</u></b> Do we and are we allowing <b><i>the Lord to direct our hearts in the love of God and into the patience of Christ?</i></b> We must be aware that Satan is always trying to tell and convince that God doesn’t love us, laying heavy burdens on us, especially when things have gone wrong, such as in times of tragedy!</p>
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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

<p><b><u>Warning Against Idleness;</u></b>  <b><u>2Th 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>2Th 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>2Th 3:8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,</u></b></p> <p><b><u>2Th 3:9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>v.6 But we command you:</u></b> The strength of this statement is plain. It was not only a <i>command</i>, but it was also made <i>in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. That you withdraw from every brother who walks</i> (and keeps walking!) <i>disorderly</i>: Paul defined the <i>disorderly</i> as those who did not walk <i>according to the tradition</i>, the pattern of teaching and living that Paul and the apostles gave to them. Churches should not withdraw from someone because they fail to conform to man’s traditions or teachings. The only standard to uphold is apostolic tradition and teaching.. <i>Withdraw from every brother</i>: Paul had already told the Thessalonians to <i>warn the unruly (1Th 5:14)</i>. Apparently, the problem still remained to some degree, so he told them to now discipline the unruly ones in question. The purpose in withdrawing from these disobedient was not so much punishment, but more so simply to deny these disobedient ones the aid and comfort of the fellowship of the body of Christ until they repented. It put them out of the church into the “domain” of Satan (the world), in hope that they might miss the fellowship of the church so much they would repent of their disobedience. Paul echoed the same idea in <u>1Co 5:4-5</u>. The purpose was to bring about repentance and salvation in the disobedient ones, not to condemn them. Indirectly, Paul demonstrated that his vision for the church was that it should be such a place of love and comfort that it would cause a significant deprivation to be put out of it. Our churches today should also fit that description.</p> <p><b><u>v.7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us:</u></b> Paul was an excellent example among the Thessalonians, in that he worked hard to support his own needs. This wasn’t because apostles like Paul didn’t have the right to request support. Instead, it was because he wanted to set a good example of hard work and prove false any accusation that he preached the gospel for personal gain.</p> <p><b><u>v.8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked:</u></b> Paul says, follow us, the example that we set. We worked to provide for our needs. So should everyone who is able, work to provide for their needs. If you are not able, that is different. In those instances, there should be a willingness from the church to help those who are unable to provide for themselves. But if a person is able then he should be providing for himself and not trying to live off others. Paul travailed night and day in order that he would not be chargeable to any of them. This was Paul’s pattern when first taking the gospel. He would not receive support from people with whom he was sharing the gospel.</p> <p><b><u>v.9 To make ourselves an example of how you should follow us:</u></b> Therefore, the Thessalonians should follow Paul in his example of both hard work and willingness to sacrifice for the furtherance and integrity of the gospel.</p> <p><b><u>v.10</u></b> Here, Paul describes the teaching presented by the apostolic tradition. <i>If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat</i>: Simply put, Paul says that if anyone <i>will not work</i> (instead of <u>can not</u> work), <i>neither shall he eat</i>. God’s plan is to provide for our needs through our work. <i>Neither shall he eat</i>: Since God is able to provide through our needs in any manner imaginable, it means something that He has chosen primarily to meet our needs through work. This is part of God’s character, because He is a busy God and always at work.</p>	<p><b><u>v.6</u></b> As Christians, we need to be aware of the danger of idleness. Notice the command, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <u>to withdraw from every brother walking disorderly</u>, according to the tradition that we are taught here.</p> <p><b><u>v.7</u></b> Are we following the example that Paul sets here in earning our own way, if we are able, and not living off of any in the church? Paul would not take any money until a church was established--collections in Macedonia for the Jerusalem church. Let every man give as he purposes in his heart!</p> <p><b><u>v.8</u></b> In or out of the ministry, if we are able, each of us is to work to provide for our own needs!</p> <p><b><u>v.9</u></b> As an apostle, it was proper that he should be supported. <i>“is written, you shall not muzzle the ox that treads out the corn.</i> But Paul himself never wanted people to think that he was in it for the money. We too, need to be sure that we are not a burden to anyone.</p> <p><b><u>v.10</u></b> Paul lays out an important and practical concept. <i>“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work”. Notice, it was not “could not work, but would not work”. “If any man would not work, if you are able to and you don’t work, neither should he eat.”</i></p>
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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

*2Th 3:11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.*

*2Th 3:12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.*

*2Th 3:13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.*

*2Th 3:14 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.*

*2Th 3:15 Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother*

v. 11 *There are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner*: The idleness of some had become a source of sin. It was not only because of the work that they didn’t do, but also because of the harm they did, in becoming *busybodies* in their idle time! In the original language there is a play on words, something like “busybodies who do no business.” These *busybodies* thought that if Jesus was coming soon, it made no sense to work, making it easy for them to intrude into the lives of others and take advantage of Christian generosity.

v. 12 . *Now those who are such we command*: With authority, *through our Lord Jesus*, Paul commanded these *busybodies* to *work in quietness*, to get out of the business of others and to provide for their own needs (*eat their own bread*) instead of expecting other Christians to provide for them. The early church did provide for the truly needy among them, but only after being certain that they were truly needy and after putting them to work for the church (1Ti 5:3-16).

v. 13 *Do not grow weary in doing good*: Proper encouragement for those who were working as they should. Few things are more wearying than seeing others take advantage of Christian generosity. But we should not let the manipulations of some discourage us from doing good to the truly needy. Well doing is attending to the duties that arise out of our relationships in life and to attend carefully to them, not to be men-pleasers, but in everything are seeking to serve God. Gal 6:9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

v. 14 *And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle*: Here, Paul finished the thought introduced at 2Th 3:6. He here elaborates on what it means to *withdraw* from a brother as mentioned previously. *Note that person and do not keep company with him*: To withdraw means to *note that person*, and to *not keep company with him*, with the purpose of causing him to *be ashamed*.

v. 15 Yet, the purpose is not to make him an *enemy* of the church, but through the severity of the withdrawal from fellowship, to warn and *admonish* him as an erring *brother*. The intention of excommunication is not to drive men from the Lord’s flock, but rather to bring them back again when they have wandered and gone astray.

vs. 11-12 Paul is saying if there are those who won’t work and are just going around meddling in other’s affairs, let them mind their own business, get a job, and provide for their own needs! That applies to each of us as well!

v. 13 What an needed exhortation for each of us! “*Do not grow weary in doing good!*” Beware of the tendency to want immediate results and grow weary in the absence of it. In due season, you will reap, if you faint not.

v. 14 We too, as Paul need to be really serious about this business that a person should work and provide for his own needs and not try to live off of others.

v. 15 We must be careful in admonishing those who need it. Lovingly, go to him. Say to him, man, you need to get a job. You know, you are just sponging off of other people. There are jobs out there and you may not, you know, immediately get the kind of job you want because you want to be the president of the company, but you know, you’ve got to start somewhere. Get a job as a janitor. Work your way up. But admonish them.

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

#### Benediction

*2Th 3:16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.*

*2Th 3:17 The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.*

*2Th 3:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

v. 16 *Now may the Lord of peace:* Paul’s blessing of *peace always in every way* was so appropriate for this church experiencing both persecution and tribulation. It is the presence of the **Lord of peace** that will grant them this *peace*. Spurgeon noted that Paul does not say, ‘May the Lord of peace send his angel to give you peace.’ Or ‘May the Lord of peace send his minister to give you peace.’ He does not even say, ‘May the Lord of peace at the communion table, or in reading the word, or in prayer, or in some other sacred exercise give you peace.’ In all these we might well be as refreshed, but he says ‘**Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way**’ as if He alone in His own person could give peace, and as if His presence were the sole means of such a divine peace as He desires. Joh 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. 2Co 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, [4] who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

*the Lord of peace.* Paul knew this characteristic of God would be most meaningful to reflect upon in light of the intense spiritual battle that raged all around the Thessalonians.

v. 17 *The salutation of Paul with my own hand:* As was his custom, Paul himself wrote the final words of the epistle with his own hand. This was both a personal demonstration of affection, and proof, **a sign in every epistle** that the letter was authentic!

v. 18 *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all:* For Paul, God’s *grace* was the beginning and the end of the Christian life. It was appropriate that this letter, as was most of his letters, began and ended with a mention of *grace*. Notice, the addition of one little word in this final benediction as compared with its form in the first Epistle. It is the word ‘*all*.’ Thus the apostle all those, even the ones whom he had been rebuking and correcting, revealing the greatness of his heart and his love.

v. 16 What an example of a wonderful benediction! *Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all. The Lord Jesus whose characteristic is peace, can alone give real peace to the heart and to the world.* It was this the Thessalonians needed. On the one hand, they had believed that the dead saints would not be ready to go and meet the Lord; on the other, they had thought the day of the Lord already come. **The enjoyment of the love of God, and peace of heart in waiting for Christ, was necessary for them.**

v. 17 Paul is clarifying that any letter or epistle purportedly to be from him, will have his own handwritten signature as a mark of authenticity. We too, need to be careful in what we quote that it is indeed Biblical and if it has some private opinion of what it means, that should always be clarified as being our personal opinion and not a statement of fact.

v. 18 Paul begins the epistles by wishing them grace and peace. Here he ends the epistle to the Thessalonians with that same wish, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Another good example for us!

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### **HE GIVETH MORE GRACE – Anne J Flint – Bill & Gloria Gaither**

*He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater, He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;  
To added afflictions, He addeth His mercy, To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.*

*Refrain: His love has no limits, His grace has no measure, His power no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*

*When we have exhausted our store of endurance, When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, Our Father’s full giving is only begun. (Refrain)*