

2 Thessalonians Lesson 3

2 Thessalonians 3 is Paul's last recorded communication we have between Paul and the Thessalonians.

Last week, Pastor Landon talked about the great falling away and the rise of the Anti-Christ figure that will eventually deceive the nation.

v. 2 *don't be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed*, either by a spirit or a spoken word...don't be deceived.

There will be a global rebellion against the Lord Jesus and His word before the rise of the Anti-Christ.

2:9-12 NIV *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of **displays** of power through **signs** and wonders **that serve the lie**, **10** and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because **they refused to love the truth and so be saved**. **11** For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie **2** and so that all will be condemned who have **not believed the truth** but have **delighted in wickedness**.*

In chapter 3, Paul finishes his letter:

His words are both sweet and strong. He is both **comforting** and **commanding**.

2 Thess. 2:16-3:5 ESV *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal **comfort** and good hope through grace, **17 comfort** your hearts and **establish** them in every **good work** and **word**.*

Take a look at the intercessory prayer of Jesus for his disciples: *John 17:14-15 ESV* *I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.***

God is depending upon us to accomplish good works that lift Him up and speak good words that lift others out of the present corruption of our evil culture.

Please notice Paul is not praying for an exit out, he is praying for a purpose to stay...

3:1 *Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, **2** and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.*

Not all have faith... **3** But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. **4** And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you **are doing** and **will do** the things that we command. **5** May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 NIV *And we urge you, brothers and sisters, **warn those** who are **idle** and **disruptive**, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*

NOTE: One time the Apostle Peter was not acting in line with the gospel by withdrawing from the table with the gentile believers when some Jewish leaders arrived from Jerusalem. Paul rebuked him openly because He was not acting in line with the gospel and his actions was leading others into that hypocrisy (Gal. 2:14)

1) Don't be lazy.

v.6-10 ESV *Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. **7** For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, **8** nor did we eat anyone's bread without*

paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

1 Thess. 4:11-12 NLT Make it your goal to live a quiet life (no drama), minding your own business and **working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. 12 Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.**

Colossians 3:23,24 ESV Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

2) Don't be a burden.

v.8 *nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might **not be a burden** to any of you.*

3) Don't be a busybody.

v.11,12 *For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but **busybodies**. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.*

2 Thess 3:11,12 (Message) *If anyone refuses to obey our clear command written in this letter, don't let him get by with it. Point out such a person and refuse to subsidize his freeloading. Maybe then he'll think twice. 15 But don't treat him as an enemy. Sit him down and talk about the problem as someone who cares.*

4) Don't grow weary.

v.13 *As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.*

4 *And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you **are doing** and **will do** the things that we command. 5 May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.*

- **Let the Lord direct your hearts in your ministry towards other people.**
- **Keep on doing what you are called to and do nothing out of false obligation.**
- **Settle into your love for God and steadfastness of Christ in the face of those who oppose you.**