

“Time to Tighten Up”

2 Thessalonians Chapter 3

2 Thessalonians Outlined

Chapters 1	Encouraging the Thessalonians	(Discouraged Believers)	“Riding the Storm Out”
Chapters 2	Explanation for the Thessalonians	(Disturbed Believers)	“Antidote for the Anxious”
Chapters 3	Exhortation to the Thessalonians	(Disobedient Believers)	“Time to Tighten up”

2Th 3:1

Paul's
Faithfulness

Exhortation to Pray vs 1-5

Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as {it did} also with you;

2Th 3:2

and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.

- Paul Requests Prayer - This prayer shows his priority in his life
 - That the Word of the Lord would spread and glorified
 - That they in ministry will not be influenced and destroyed from evil men.

(it doesn't seem to be deliverance from hardship, they endured those things it seem to be more of a deliverance from those who come in that seem to be godly but do not really have faith.)
- Paul understood that success in ministry is dependent on prayer
 - Romans 15:30 *“Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me”*
 - 2 Corinthians 1:11 *“you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.”*
 - Ephesians 6:19 *“pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel”*
 - Philippians 1:19 *“I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ”*
 - Colossians 4:2+3 *“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ”*
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:25 *“Brethren, pray for us.”*
- *“You cannot tell how much God's servants are helped by the prayers of his people. The strongest man in Israel will be the better for the prayers of the weakest saint in Zion.”*
(Spurgeon)

2Th 3:3

The Lord's
Faithfulness

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil {one.}

- The Lord is Faithful
- To be Faithful is “trusted, reliable, true to one's word”
- Paul is confident in this statement. It is a great verse for believers to memorize and be themselves confident in.
- What is the Lord Faithful in doing:
 - To strengthen you (KJV= establish) correct, nurture, teach, build up, equip, gift
Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”*
Paul is being equipped to be content in all circumstances in plenty or in lack.
 - To protect you (from the evil one) guard, hide, shield,
Psalm 3:3 *“But thou, O LORD, [art] a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.”*

Paul requests prayer then comments on the character of the Lord then transitions to the believers personal responsibility of faithfulness..

2Th 3:4 We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will {continue
The Believer's Faithfulness to} do what we **command**.

2Th 3:5 May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

- Paul has the expectation that believers will continue doing what was taught.
(what he commanded)
- The concept of "doing" shows that Christian living is more than wonderful lofty concepts that man can ponder. Christians are to be "doing"
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 "We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father"
- Ephesians 4:11-13 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"
 - Perfecting the saints
 - Edifying the body of Christ
 - Unity
 - Knowledge
 - Fullness of Christ
- The Lord directs your hearts
 - Love of God
 - Steadfastness of Christ (faithfulness)

2Th 3:6 **Exhortation to Follow Paul's Example** vs 6-11

Now we **command** you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

- Paul uses this word again. "We Command You"
- "Stay away" from the unruly.
- Unruly (KJV = disorderly) Defined as those who do not live according to the apostolic disciplines and teachings.
- Paul is talking about a "brother", a fellow Christian who "leads" or walks regularly (not an occasional lapse) in unruly living.

2Th 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an **undisciplined** manner among you,

2Th 3:8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we {kept} working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;

2Th 3:9 not because we do not have the right {to this,} but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.

- Paul uses himself as an example to demonstrates orderly conduct.
- The Apostolic example is that Paul worked to minister. He preferred order was that the Word of God went forth unhindered. A minister's paycheck can be a hindrance. So Paul worked so he could minister without someone ever saying "he's only in it for the money." He would rather work for his living and preach at other times so this would not hinder the hearer from receiving the gospel.
- Verse 9, "**not because we do not have the right**" Paul understood that it was acceptable practice for teachers to be compensated but he took a higher road than the norm.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this **order**: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

2Th 3:11 For we hear that some among you are leading an **undisciplined** life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

- Paul says he has said this before.
- If anyone is not **WILLING** to work (rather than **ABLE** to work) then he is not to eat.
- God has chosen to meet our need for food through the process of WORK.
 - Genesis 2:15-16 Before the fall - *"Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, From any tree of the garden you may eat freely"*
 - Exodus 23:12 *"Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease from labor"*
 - Proverbs 12:11 *"He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, But he who pursues worthless things lacks sense"*
 - Proverbs 16:26 *"A worker's appetite works for him, For his hunger urges him on."*
 - Proverbs 31:27 an excellent wife *"She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness."*
 - John 5:17 Jesus said of God's nature and of Himself *"My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."*
- Paul received a report that there were some people not working at all. Paul calls them Busybodies
 - Busybodies (one who is busy about not being busy)
 - Waiting for the Rapture
 1. William Miller, founder of the Millerite movement predicted the end between 1843 and 1844 but later revised it to late 1844. Believers sold property and quite jobs to be ready.
 2. Bill Maupin, founder of Lighthouse Gospel Tract Foundation, predicted the rapture for June 28, 1981. Again people sold homes and quit jobs to be ready.
 3. **Matthew 24:40-42** People are working at the Rapture *"Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two [women shall be] grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."*
 - Not Studying to show themselves approved.
 1. There are some people who believe that they have a particular anointing to preach or teach that is more lead of the Holy Spirit than one who is limited because of a need to study and prepare.
 2. This is also seen in many areas of ministry. These people do have put down the work of study and deceived themselves. The word clearly shows Paul encouraged the saints and Timothy to study the scriptures. (2 Timothy 2:15)
 3. Paul even in prison asked for the scrolls so he could study. (2 Timothy 4:13)

2Th 3:12 **Exhortation to Obey** vs 12-15

Now such persons we **command** and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

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

2Th 3:14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.

2Th 3:15 {Yet} do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

- Paul commands the busybodies - GET A JOB - STOP BEING A MOOCH
- Paul commands the faithful believers
 - Don't grow weary in doing good. (Galatians 6:9; 2 Corinthians 4:1)
It can be discouraging seeing people taking advantage of other peoples hard work. It can give someone the feeling of quitting.
 - Don't associate with the busybodies. (but remember he's a brother not an enemy)
So that it shames him to correction.

2Th 3:16 **Closing Confirmation** vs 16-18

Now may the Lord of peace **Himself** continually grant you peace in every circumstance.
The Lord be with you all!

2Th 3:17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.

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

- Paul's Blessing in closing is so appropriate for a church that was discouraged through persecution, disturbed through confused teaching and weary through disobedient believers.
- He blesses them three ways:
 - With the Lord Jesus **Himself** bringing peace for the persecuted.
 - With an Authentic signature on his teaching for the disturbed / confused
 - With the Grace from Jesus for disobedient.

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