

Text Outline 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

- I. As for other matters, brothers and sisters,**
- A. pray for us that the message of the Lord**
- 1. may spread rapidly**
 - 2. and be honored,**
 - 3. just as it was with you.**
- B. ²And pray that we may be delivered from**
- 1. wicked**
 - 2. and evil people,**
 - 3. for not everyone has faith.**
 - 4. ³But the Lord**
 - a) *is faithful,***
 - b) *and he will***
 - (1) strengthen you**
 - (2) and protect you from the evil one.**
- C. ⁴We have confidence in the Lord**
- 1. that you are doing**
 - 2. and will continue to do the things we command.**
 - 3. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into**
 - a) *God's love***
 - b) *and Christ's perseverance.***
- II. ⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters,**
- A. to keep away from every believer who**
- 1. is idle**
 - 2. and disruptive**
 - 3. and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.**
- B. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example.**
- 1. We were not idle when we were with you,**
 - 2. ⁸nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it.**
 - 3. On the contrary, we**
 - a) *worked***
 - (1) night and day,**
 - (2) laboring and toiling**
 - (3) so that we would not be a burden to any of you.**
 - b) ⁹We did this,**
 - (1) not because we do not have the right to such help,**
 - (2) but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.**

C. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

1. ¹¹ We hear that some among you

a) *are*

- (1) idle
- (2) and disruptive.

b) *They are not*

- (1) busy;
- (2) they are busybodies.

c) ¹² *Such people we*

- (1) command
- (2) and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to
 - (a) *settle down*
 - (b) *and earn the food they eat.*

2. ¹³ And as for you, brothers and sisters,

a) *never tire of doing what is good.*

b) ¹⁴ *Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter.*

- (1) Do not associate with them,
- (2) in order that they may feel ashamed.
- (3) ¹⁵ Yet do not regard them
 - (a) *as an enemy,*
 - (b) *but warn them as you would a fellow believer.*

III. ¹⁶ Now may the Lord of peace himself

A. *give you peace*

- 1. at all times**
- 2. and in every way.**

B. *The Lord be with all of you.*

C. ¹⁷ *I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand,*

- 1. which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters.**
- 2. This is how I write.**

D. ¹⁸ *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

Conceptual Outline 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

- I. The Message is to spread and honored**
 - A. Pray that the message of the Lord will spread rapidly & be honored.**
 - B. Pray for deliverance**
 - 1. from wicked & evil people
 - 2. Assurance that our Lord who is faithful will strengthen & protect the Thessalonians from the evil one.
 - C. Apostle's confidence in the Lord**
 - 1. that the Thessalonians are doing & will continue to obey the apostle's command.
 - 2. prayer that the Lord will direct their hearts
- II. The message is honored among believers**
 - A. Keep away from believer who is**
 - 1. idle
 - 2. disruptive
 - 3. does not live according to the teaching
 - B. The missionaries' example of obedience**
 - 1. not idle
 - 2. not taken advantage of other
 - 3. but yielding of their rights & worked hard to be a model of love
 - C. Guidelines for handling the rebellious**
 - 1. rule was clearly taught
 - 2. need for discipline was evident
 - 3. command & urge to repent
 - 4. obedience of the ones exercising the discipline
 - 5. do not associate in order to induce shame
 - 6. regard as fellow believer, not enemy
- III. Closing Prayer**
 - A. The Lord of peace will give peace to the Thessalonians**
 - B. The Lord be with them**
 - C. Authentication of the letter**
 - D. The Grace of the Lord be with them**

Theme: Priority of the end time is for the message of the Lord is to be spread rapidly and be honored among believers.

Questions

1. Do you consider yourself an obedient person? Who/what is your supreme authority? Do you know anyone who repeatedly disobey rules? How does his/her behavior affect you or others? How did you handle the person?

2. As Paul comes to the closing of this letter, he addresses an important task for the end time believers. Here he instructs them how the message of the Lord should be handled. In vs. 1-5, the missionaries asks the Thessalonians to pray for them? What are they to pray for? What are they so important? Why is it important that the message be both spread rapidly and honored?
 - Pray that the message of the Lord will spread rapidly & be honored.
 - Pray for deliverance from wicked & evil people
 - The work of evangelism is the Lord's command and is the reason of believers' existence in the world. The spreading of the Word will be meaningless if is not also obeyed.
 - The work is not ours. We can't handle evil forces. God alone can deliver us. With the work of the Holy Spirit, our work will be futile.

3. What are some of the factors hindering the spread of the message? From this request for prayer, can you identify some of the ways Paul handled discouragements? Notice in v. 3, Paul shifted from "us" to "you"? Why the shift? What does it indicate about his concern? What would happen to the Thessalonians if the apostle fall?
 - Not everyone has faith (v.2)
 - Presence of wicked & evil people (v.2)
 - Behind evil people is the evil one (v.3)
 - Paul's handling of discouragement
 - prayer (his own & others' support)
 - recognize reality of people who lack faith
 - recognize reality of evil
 - recognize God is faithful & will protect his people.
 - Paul's concern is not just for himself but also for the believers. If he falls, the believers' faith will be shaken. We're intimately related in the Body. Our rising and falling will affect one another.

4. What part do you play in the spreading of the message? What might hinder you from effectively spreading the message? How can you overcome the resistance?

5. From vs. 4-15, Paul turns from the spread of the message, to the honoring of the message. What specific issue is Paul addressing? This is a topic he had addressed in I Thess 4:11-12 & 5:14, how is his tone in the portion different from the 1st letter? What are some of

the words he uses to describe the message? What are some of the verbs he uses to instruct its obedience? Why do you think he uses such strong words?

- the idlers
- strong commanding tone
- message v. 1; teaching v. 6; rule v. 10; instruction v. 14
- command vs. 4, 6, 12; urge v.12; obey v.14
- The Word of God had to be obeyed & honored by His people. His commands must be lived out so that we will be respected by outsiders (I Thess 4:12) & our efforts to spread the Word will be effective.

6. What other method did Paul use to teach obedience? In using this method, what did he have to give up? What motivated him to give up his rights?

- Role modeling hard work and yielding of authority.
- He gave up his rights & authority as an apostle to be cared for and supplied of his needs.
- His motivated by love (not the burden them v.8) & to teach them the value of work (v.9)

7. From this passage, can you outline how we should handle people who are disobedient? How are faith, love, and hope demonstrated by the missionaries even in church discipline?

- Guidelines for handling the rebellious
 1. rule was clearly taught
 2. need for discipline was evident
 3. command & urge to repent
 4. obedience of the ones exercising the discipline
 5. do not associate in order to induce shame
 6. regard as fellow believer, not enemy
- v. 8 Paul's work & labor demonstrates his faith and love, v. 14-15 his efforts as outlined demonstrates his endurance and hope that the idlers will repent.

8. vs. 16-18 Paul closes his letter with the same prayer that he began the letter in as in Ch 1:1b. What is his prayer for the Thessalonians? What are each of the three things important for the church at the end time?

- His prayer:
 - the Lord of peace will give them peace
 - the Lord will be with them
 - the grace of the Lord be with them
- At a time when there's external attacks of evil forces and internal challenges of disobedience, believers need not only the peace of Christ to avoid feeling unrest and disturbed. Peace is also necessary as they handle conflicts in the Body. More importantly, they need Christ, Himself, who is faithful and able to overthrow the Antichrist with his breath & his splendor (4:7). Grace is needed

when they fail. Grace is available to them when they repent. Grace is also what they'll need to offer one another.