

2 Thessalonians

Lesson 10: 2 Thessalonians 3

What you believe will affect how you behave. Doctrine and duty go hand in hand. We must learn doctrinal truths, but it doesn't stop there. We must also learn how to apply the truths to our daily lives. Paul understands that he can't just stop his letter after teaching the Thessalonians about the Day of the Lord and God's final judgment for sinners. Therefore, in this final chapter of 2 Thessalonians, we are going to see his pastoral heart and care for the Thessalonians as he gives some final exhortations to the church on how to live out what they know. Let's dive in and see what it is we can learn from Paul's exhortations.

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1–5**

1. In verse 1–2, what two prayer requests does Paul give?
2. The church at Thessalonica was an evangelistic church. How do we know this?
3. According to verse 2, even when the gospel is successful, who will always be around?

Application: Paul's driving motivation was the spread of the gospel. In what ways can you make this the driving motivation in your life? What areas in your life need to change for this to happen?

4. In verse 3, what assurance does Paul give the Thessalonians?

Application: How does verse 3 give you comfort? Have you had a situation in your life where you have seen God strengthening and protecting you? Explain.

5. In verse 4, who does Paul have confidence in?
6. What encouragement does Paul give the Thessalonians in verse 4?
7. What two prayer requests does Paul give for the Thessalonians in verse 5?

Application: “The love of God” in verse 5 is both the Thessalonians love for God and God’s love for the Thessalonians. As you think about God’s love in this way, how does it motivate you to live?

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13**

8. What command does Paul give the Thessalonians in verse 6?
9. By what authority is Paul giving this command?
10. In verses 7–9, Paul is concerned about the laziness/idleness of the Thessalonians. What did he do so that he could be an example to the Thessalonians?
11. What command did the Thessalonians disobey in verses 10–11?
12. What does Paul exhort the lazy people to do in verse 12?

Application: The Bible tells us to care for the poor (Proverbs 14:31; 1 John 3:17–18). We also live in a culture of “entitlements.” How can we balance helping the poor, but not encouraging laziness?

13. Why would Paul tell those who are working hard not to grow weary in verse 13?

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 3:14–15**

14. According to verse 14, what is the church supposed to do with lazy believers who won’t work? Why?

15. How is the church supposed to treat lazy brothers or sisters? What is the motivation for this treatment?

Application: The purpose of church discipline is to lead a straying brother or sister to repentance. How have you seen church discipline practiced in churches? Why do you think that is?

Application: How can loving confrontation of sin make Faith Bible Church stronger?

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 3:16–18**

16. Compare 2 Thessalonians 1:2 with 2 Thessalonians 3:16–18. Why does Paul begin and end his letter with this emphasis?

Application: So often we pray that God would end the trials in our lives. Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians is that God's peace would continually be with them during their trials. What can you learn about your own prayer life from Paul's prayers?

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in chapter 3? Why?