

2 THESSALONIANS SESSION 3

Review: Last time we went through the second chapter which was concerning the day of the Lord. These people were upset due to a forged letter allegedly from Paul that led them to believe they had missed the rapture and were amid the tribulation. Paul addresses this by reminding them of the things he told them when he was there the first time. He points out that three things must occur before Christ is revealed to the world...1. A falling away must come first 2. The Antichrist must be revealed in his time 3. The Holy Spirit must stop restraining iniquity and the spirit world altogether. He wrote of God sending strong delusion so that those that have heard the gospel and rejected it will believe a lie and be damned!

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith. *Charles Spurgeon was remarkably used of God in England during the 1800's. Hundreds of people would press in at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London to hear him preach every week. One day someone asked him why so many came to hear him preach, to which he took them down to a small chamber under his pulpit where there were people fervently praying...he replied, "My people pray for me". Paul requested prayer from this church because he understood that we're in a war with the kingdom of darkness and we need help all the time from God. Praying for the word of God to have free course means to pray that nothing hinders it from going out or from doing what God wants it to do. Normally everywhere that Paul traveled, he encountered men that the gospel had no effect on. These men were usually tools for the devil and a thorn in Paul's side* **2 Timothy 4:14-15** Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. *Stablish means to fix permanently...he says the Lord is faithful to ground you and to guard you. Paul had confidence in these people to heed what they heard through this letter and to obey it. The Lord directs our hearts into His love which is different from ours...it's unconditional, selfless and sacrificial. In other places it is referred to as "charity" which is always the goal of salvation. The patient waiting for Christ*

means that we endure what ever may come waiting for his appearing. The key to growing in the love of God and enduring hardships in life is obedience.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-7 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; *Disorderly means to behave in a manner contrary to rules or established institutions; violating law and good order. The commandment here is to cease having fellowship with brothers and sisters that are known rebels. People who live contrary to what has been passed down from the Lord to the apostles and then to the churches...withdraw from them. Paul then reminds them how that he and the people that traveled with him behaved when they were among them.*

2 Thessalonians 3:8-10 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. *Paul says that they went above and beyond not to be a burden while they were there. They labored day and night to provide for themselves so they wouldn't need to take anything from them. Then he says this, "not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us." Meaning that they had a right to take food and lodge from them, but they didn't so that they could set an example of laboring for your living. There were people there that didn't want to work but still wanted others to give them their living. Paul said if people won't work, they shouldn't eat. There's a difference in "won't work" and "can't work"*

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. *If we don't fill up our time with the right things, then we will occupy them with the wrong things. Busybodies are people that can't mind their own business for being in everyone else's. It's disorderly for Christians to be lazy and meddling, stirring up trouble or keeping strife going. Do you know what cures that? A Job...Paul wrote these commands in the first letter -* **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12** And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother. *People that*

won't obey the instructions written in this letter mark them and avoid them. The purpose is that they may be ashamed of their actions and correct it. We are to do this not because these people are our enemies, but because they are our family in the body of Christ and we want them to be better.

2 Thessalonians 3:16-18 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord *be* with you all. The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen. The second *epistle* to the Thessalonians was written from Athens. *Paul starts nearly all his letters with greetings of grace and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and he usually ends them the same way. May the Lord give you peace and grace*