

# *2 Thessalonians*

## *Week Three*

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## 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:18

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### STUDY GUIDE

## 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:18

### Day 1

In order for the study of God's Word to take root in our hearts it must be combined with prayer and meditation and the work of the Holy Spirit. Prayer in response to thinking and pondering on God's Word helps us to ground our thoughts in God's will and ways, not our own fallen thinking. As you read through this week's portion of Scripture several times, prayerfully contemplate:

- What in these verses can you praise God for?
- What do these verses reveal you need to confess?
- What in these verses can you thank God for?
- What do these verses show that you need from God?

### Day 2- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

*Paul seeks to dispel the fright and confusion the Thessalonians were experiencing about the Day of the Lord with the reassuring truth about the present and future reality of genuinely converted believers.*

1. List the amazing blessings belonging to those who believe the truth according to verses 13 and 14.
2. According to verse 15, what should be the believer's response in light of the glorious truths that Paul laid out in 13 and 14?



Our ability to stand firm is not based on our own will power or strength, but on wholeheartedly believing and appropriating the stunning blessings that are ours in Jesus as God holds fast to us. We stand firm by keeping a strong grip on the truth in God's Word. Savor these truths from verses 13 and 14 and let them sink into your mind and heart as you spend time thanking God in prayer.

- ❖ As a believer you are loved by God.
- ❖ You are chosen by God to be saved.
- ❖ You are set apart from sin by the work of the Spirit.
- ❖ You are called for eternal glory.

Scholar's Note: The word *traditions* refers to a body of truth "handed down" (Mark 7:13, Acts 6:14). This truth would include Paul's teaching and any other apostolic word (1 Cor. 11:2) – Mark Howell, Exalting Jesus in 1 and 2 Thessalonians

3. For us, the *traditions* Paul was talking about are compiled in the Bible. List all the ways you can think of to *hold to* the words of God.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In Paul's prayer in verse 16 and 17, what two things does he ask God for concerning the Thessalonian believers?

-In the midst of persecution and turmoil, what is Paul's priority for them?

-How will this be accomplished? (vs. 15 and 16)

### Day 3- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

5. Paul encourages the Thessalonians to have an active faith. In our verses for today, what words do you see that demonstrate this theme?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. While encouraging the Thessalonians to be active in their faith, Paul also knows that it is impossible to do without God enabling them. What words do you see that demonstrate this truth?

For Discussion: What are some ways you would be able to tell you were not working in the strength that God provides?

7. Paul not only prays for the Thessalonian believers, but also asks them to pray for him. What does this demonstrate about Paul and about what Paul thinks about prayer?

Picture and Ponder: “Prayer is one of the forces of the universe, as real as the forces of gravity, electricity and magnetism. God always takes into account the factor of prayer when He is resolving the total equation of the universe.” –John Phillips, Exploring 1 and 2 Thessalonians

8. In verse 1, Paul asks for prayer for himself, Silvanus (Silas), and Timothy **that** the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored... How do you think these two things are connected?

For Discussion: We would all agree that one of the most important things we can do for others and ourselves is to pray; yet we so often fail miserably in this area. Why do you think this is true? What can we do to change it?



Paul prays that the Lord would direct their hearts to the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ. Meditate on (ponder, think about, dwell on) the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ by writing down everything you can think of that pertains to each.

#### Day 4- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

9. What danger to the church was Paul warning the Thessalonians about?(vs.6,11)

Digging Deeper: Look back to 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 5:14. How had Paul addressed this issue before?

10. As an apostle and missionary, Paul was entitled to receive support from the churches he planted. What were the reasons he chose not to do that? What does this reveal about Paul?



Throughout his letters to the churches, Paul encourages believers to imitate him as he follows Jesus. It is a bold appeal, but it lacks any hint of arrogance because Paul is so single focused in living for Jesus and wanting his beloved spiritual children to live for and love Jesus too. It is also highly practical because most of us are such visual learners. It is so helpful to see what a life of vibrant faith looks like in everyday life in a person who is living it out.

- ❖ If you are struggling in a certain area, consider finding someone who is faithful in that area and imitating her. For example, if you are struggling with honoring your husband, watch or ask how she would handle certain situations and copy her. What other areas in your life would it be helpful to be able to imitate a godly example?
  
- ❖ What could be some possible dangers of imitating someone?
  
- ❖ Does your life live up to your words in a way that others could imitate you or more often do you say one thing and do something else?
  
- ❖ What is something you want your children/loved ones to imitate in you?
  
- ❖ What is something you don't want your children/loved ones to imitate in you?

11. What are some consequences implied in this passage of having some in the church fellowship that were lazy and not willing to work?

Digging Deeper: Look up Colossians 3:23-24. What should the Christian work ethic look like in action and motivation?

## Day 5- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

12. In verses 6-13, how did Paul instruct the hard working believers in the church to deal with the idle ones?

13. In verse 13, Paul encourages the hard working Thessalonians not to grow weary in doing good. Part of the good Paul seems to be encouraging them to do is stated in verse 14 and 15. Why is this considered doing good?



In verse 15 Paul instructs the Thessalonian believers to not regard the idle busybodies as enemies, but to warn them as brothers. His goal is that the name of Jesus might not be tarnished by these busybodies, the church would be healthy, and that those sinning would repent and be restored to fellowship.

In Galatians 6:1 Paul gives these instructions, *“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”*

- ❖ What kind of sinful attitude might be present if the Thessalonians regarded them as enemies?
  
- ❖ What would a spirit of gentleness look like?
  
- ❖ How does warning them as brothers show love?
  
- ❖ How does ignoring the situation not show love?

- ❖ Do you err on the side of being too eager to point out others sin, or too reluctant? Why do you think this is so?

14. In Paul's fourth prayer for the Thessalonians in this letter, Paul asks God to supply *peace at all times in every way*. From all you've learned about the Thessalonians why did they so greatly need this?

-In what area of your life do you desperately need God to supply you with peace?

-Who do you know that needs this prayer prayed for them?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?