



2 Thessalonians 3

Lesson 3

Paul closed his second letter to the believers in Thessalonica asking for prayer and beseeching them to walk in the ways which he has taught them. Learning and living should go together. May God *direct your hearts* in all His ways.

OBSERVATION: Read 2 Thessalonians 3

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God/Father* and *Jesus*.
Key Words: *God, Jesus, glorified, faith/faithful, evil one, command(ed)/exhort/admonish, labor/toil/work(ed,ing), disorderly, love, peace, and grace.*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used seven times. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1,2 - Prayer Request

1. Paul included in his closing words, a prayer request. What did he ask them to pray for?
2. *Running swiftly* is the opposite of "being bound". What truth can we learn from 2 Timothy 2:9?

3. Paul also desired that the *Word of the Lord* be glorified. What phrase followed the word *glorified*?
 - a. Scan through 1 and 2 Thessalonians and look for statements reflecting ways the *Word of the Lord* was glorified in the believers in Thessalonica. List a few of the evidences that Paul observed in them.

Personal: Consider your own life. What are some of the evidences of the *Word of the Lord* being glorified in you?

4. Although 2 Timothy 2:9 reminds us that *the word of God is not chained*, Paul asked that they pray *that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men*. Paul wrote this request from Corinth. Read Acts 18:5-11 and summarize Paul's struggle.
 - a. We don't know the specific timing, but God's words to Paul in verses 9,10 could have been in answer to the prayers of those in Thessalonica. Certainly, God delivered Paul many times. What can you learn from this about praying for others?
5. Consider the phrase, *for not all have faith*. *Unreasonable and wicked men* are very often those who are not believers. In what way is this a reminder to us as we face the challenges of those in our world today?
6. Review Paul's prayer request in 2 Thessalonians 3:1,2. What do you commonly ask people to pray for?
 - a. In keeping in line with Paul's requests, what might you ask people to pray for?
7. How does our belief or confidence in prayer affect the way we pray?

2 THESSALONIANS 3:3-5 - The Lord is Faithful

1. According to verse 3, what is the Lord *faithful* to do?

a. Define the words:

establish

guard

1.) Consider your own life. How has the Lord *established* you and *guarded* you from the *evil one*?

a.) What is your part?

2. Notice the phrase in verse 4, *both that you do and will do the things we command you*. Although we certainly have our part, in whom did Paul place his *confidence* to accomplish these things?

a. Gratefully write the words of Philippians 2:13.

1.) What does this personally mean to you?

3. In previous verses of both Thessalonian letters, Paul has exhorted these new believers to *abound in love* and *patience*. What does Paul pray the *Lord* will do in 2 Thessalonians 3:5?

a. The *patience* referred to here, is *patiently* waiting for Christ's return. What words would you use to describe the manner you are waiting for His return?

1.) What thoughts or circumstances effect (either negatively or positively) your waiting?

b. When you think about the Lord *directing* you, what are your thoughts?

2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-9 - Examples to Follow

1. Contrary to the example of the believer who walks *disorderly* (verse 6), Paul reminded them that they *know how to follow* Paul and those who serve with him. Reflect upon that statement. How does this put us in a place of being without excuse, when we claim we do not know how to behave?
 - a. Read Philippians 4:9. What is the result of doing what Paul has taught?
2. What word did Paul use in verses 6 and 7 to describe the behavior to avoid; the behavior Paul *did not* display?
 - a. Contrast someone who *walks disorderly* and the example set by someone who does *not walk disorderly*.
3. Using 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9, make a list of the *examples* set by Paul.
4. In what ways does this kind of behavior prevent a *disorderly walk*?
5. Notice the purpose for which Paul *labored and toiled night and day*. What was it?
 - a. In what ways might this goal be contrary to the goal of one who *walks disorderly*?

2 THESSALONIANS 3:6, 10-15 - Words to Obey

1. What did Paul *command* in verse 6?
 - a. Notice, Paul is referring to a *brother* here; a Christian. In your own words, describe a *brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which Paul taught*.
 - b. What further instructions are given regarding this in verses 10-15?

2. According to verse 11, what can be the result of *not working at all*?
 - a. In your own life, how have you discovered idleness to be detrimental?

3. Write Paul's exhortation in verse 13.
 - a. What encouragement can be found in Galatians 6:9?
 - 1.) Galatians 6:9 is followed by a term of conclusion, *therefore*. Because of the truths of Galatians 6:9, what are we to do *as we have opportunity*?

4. Although we are *not to keep company* with one who *does not obey the word*, what qualification is given in 2 Thessalonians 3:15?
 - a. How does this add to your understanding of the way you should behave toward this person?

2 THESSALONIANS 3:16-18 - Closing Words

1. *Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way* (2 Thessalonians 3:16). Underline the words *always* and *every*.

Do you think this is just wishful thinking or is it possible to have *peace always in every way*?

 - a. Why or why not?

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

2. Write the final words of this epistle as recorded in verse 18.
 - a. In what ways is the *grace of our Lord Jesus* with you?

REVIEW:

1. Answer this question as you would to a new believer: How does prayer change things?

2. What effect does meditating on God's love and Christ's return have on you?

3. How can associating with idle, lazy people affect a believer?

4. In what ways has this lesson:
challenged you?

encouraged you?

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.
- Proverbs 3:6

Observation Worksheet

2 Thessalonians 3

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you, **2** and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. **3** But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one. **4** And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. **5** Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. **6** But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. **7** For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; **8** nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, **9** not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. **10** For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. **11** For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. **12** Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. **13** But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good. **14** And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. **15** Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother. **16** Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all. **17** The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write. **18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.