

Thessalonians Bible Study
Fall 2022
Lesson 9 - 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
(week of November 13)
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Verse to remember - 2 Thessalonians 3:13
"Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right."

Opening prayer

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-18 aloud.

1. Do you pray Paul's prayer request in 3:1? What part do you think your prayers play (or would play) in the word of the Lord spreading rapidly?

2. "The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one" (3:3). "Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from the evil one" (Lord's Prayer). Do you think you need this protection and deliverance? How/Do you see it play out in your life?

3. How was Paul's prayer request for himself answered? See Acts 18:6-17.

4. In 3:5, Paul prays that the Lord would direct our hearts to God's love and to Christ's steadfastness. What might having this prayer answered in your life do for you?

5. Paul has done a lot of praying in 1-2 Thessalonians! (1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3:10-13, 5:23-24; 2 Thessalonians 1:3, 1:11-12, 2:16-17, 3:5, 3:16.) Think about (and share with your group) your own practice of prayer. What do you pray for? What are your struggles in prayer? What do you wish were different about your prayer life?

6. Idleness in Thessalonians is more than simple inactivity; it is combined with disorderliness and trouble-making (“busybodies” in 3:11). Paul addressed the problem more gently in 1 Thess. 4:9-12, and now here more forcefully. Has this ever been an issue in any of the Christian communities you have been a part of?

7. Paul accepted financial help from some of the churches he planted, and refused it from others. He explains why in 1 Corinthians 9:11-12. Why might he have refused financial help from the Thessalonians?

8. 3:13-15 are an encouragement to enact a kind of “church discipline.” How would you feel about being on the giving end of this discipline? What about on the receiving end? What might effective church discipline look like today?

9. Questions for personal application.

What truth does this passage teach you?

What is God saying to you in this passage?

What difference does it make in your life?

How will you respond in obedience?

10. Reflect on your study of 1-2 Thessalonians. *(By way of reminder: main themes were faithfulness, especially in the face of trial or persecution; love for the brothers and sisters, especially in sexual and work ethics; hope in Jesus’ resurrection and return; the end times.)*
 - a. What has stood out to you?

 - b. What have you learned?

 - c. How have you changed?

 - d. What questions do you still have?

Closing prayer and blessing. Consider blessing each other with the words of 3:16 - *Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.*