

2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
Pray, Obey, Be Dependable

3:1-2 Paul asks for prayer for the gospel to spread, bear fruit and be honored and for the Lord to keep him safe from wicked, evil men. Enemies of the gospel are no match to the prayers of those who have faith. (Phil. 4:6-7)

“Prayer is not a spiritual gift given only given to some. Prayer is the privilege of every child of God. God has given us the ability of speech, he has also given us the privilege to talk to Him on our knees. The marvelous thing about prayer is that every Christian is on the same level. Some believers may know more than others, but in the work of prayer each believer comes to God in the name of Christ. What more could anyone desire but that? The small child and the mature saint have equal access to the throne of grace.”

3:3-4 There are a number of ways God strengthens and protects us: 1. He indwells and seals us unto the day of redemption through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30). 2. He gives us the mind of Christ and wisdom from the Spirit so that we can see through Satan’s duplicitous lies (1 Cor. 2:6-16). 3. He gives us a biblical world view through the truth of the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17). 4. He Gives us His divine power to live a godly life (2 Peter 1:3).

3:5 In verse 5 Paul states a fifth thing that can strengthens and protect us from the evil one, and it’s maintaining a steadfast, enduring love for God over love for self and what this world has to offer.

3:6-16 *“Paul gave his readers an extremely clear and practical list of things that Christians should pay attention to as they are waiting for the Lord. Frequently, in this epistle we have seen that a true attitude of expectation regarding the Lord’s coming is to affect our daily lives. In other words, God did not intend for us, after we have learned the precious truth that Christ is coming back, to sit with starry eyes and folded hands and look up to the heavens. God wants us to face the challenge of each day, recognizing that it might be the last day before Christ comes. We should make every day count for the Lord. Christ should be first in the day. We should do the things he wants us to do.”*

Walvoord/Hitchcock

3:6 As a pastor, Paul was not afraid to drop a truth bomb for fear of offending someone. What some in the church were doing was hurting the spiritual wellbeing of the church. The command is from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He is the head of the church, therefore what He say goes. It was the responsibility of the church, those standing firm in the faith, to fulfill Jesus’ command to not associate with the able bodied, disobedient, busy bodies who were taking advantage of the benevolence of the church. How a believer handles admonishment says a lot about their spiritual maturity in Christ.

peripateō, to tread all around, i.e. walk at large **ataktōs**, irregularly (morally):—disorderly. *Strong’s Concordance*

“The purpose in withdrawing from these disobedient ones was not so much punishment, but more so simply to deny these disobedient ones the aid and comfort of the fellowship of the body of Christ until they repented. It put them out of the church and into the ‘domain’ of Satan (the world), in hope that they might miss the fellowship of the church so much they would repent of their disobedience.” Guzik

3:7-9 Paul wrote that a pastor should be supported by the church (1 Tim. 5:17-18). He knew he had every right to ask for support but instead provided for himself through tent making (Acts 18:3). He did it for several reasons, to show the church that he wasn’t in it for the money and to show the church that he did not consider himself above them in any way. *1 Tim. 5:17-18*

3:10 God, having a strong work ethic himself, expects believers to have one too. Our willingness to work is one way God provides for our needs, but it is also important in using our gifts to bless His church.

Rom. 8:28 *And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love him and been called according to his purpose.* **Prov. 10:26** *As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him.*

3:11-13 *“are leading an undisciplined life (unruly) life”* One of the ways they were being unruly was by being busybodies. In other words, they didn’t mind their own business and were no doubt gossiping and sticking their noses in other people’s affairs.

“There is a play on words in the Greek; Paul says they were not ergazomenous, but, periegazomenous; ‘not busy but busybodies.’ Not content with refusing to work productively, they used their unoccupied time to wander around interfering in the lives of others in the church.”
MacArthur

3:14-15 What Paul is saying here is; don’t get caught up in what a busybody does. Have nothing to do with their irresponsible behavior but instead do what is right by letting them know that their behavior is harmful to the church in many ways. How they handle that is on them.

Gal. 6:1-3 *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. 2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

3:16-18 Living in the peace of Christ and maintaining His peace in the church and in our personal lives is very important to the Lord. To live at peace with one another is to show His grace toward one another. **Philippians 4:4-9**

Eirene, peace, occurs in each book of the New Testament. **Rom. 12:18** *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

“Because God’s peace is impossible without God’s presence, Paul adds these words to his prayer: ‘The Lord be with all of you’ (3:16). What comfort the Thessalonians could take in knowing that God was not going to abandon them. With God’s presence, Jesus’ grace, the Spirit’s enablement, and reliable words from Paul’s pen (3:17), these young believers had every resource necessary to pursue their mission until the coming of Christ.” Howell