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2 Thessalonians 3
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By Dan Maines

2 Thessalonians 3

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it was also with you, and that we will be rescued from troublesome and evil people, for not all have the faith.

† Paul requests prayer for the rapid spread of the gospel.

† He acknowledges opposition from evil men who resisted the truth.

† Josephus (Wars 2.13.4) records how zealots stirred unrest, which mirrors the hostile environment faced by early Christians.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

† God's faithfulness is the anchor against opposition.

† Protection is promised even in the midst of trials.

2 Thessalonians 3:4

We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing, and will do, what we command.

† Paul commends their obedience, linking confidence to their steadfastness.

† The authority of apostolic instruction is emphasized.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the perseverance of Christ.

† Paul prays for divine direction, grounding them in love and endurance.

† Perseverance mirrors Christ's own endurance through suffering.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother or sister who leads a disorderly life and not one in accordance with the tradition which you received from us.

† Disorderly conduct within the church must be avoided.

† Apostolic tradition is the standard for judgment.

† The Didache (ch. 12) warned against those who lived idly at

the expense of the church, aligning with Paul's warning.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-8

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in a disorderly way among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you.

† Paul models self-support, refusing to burden the church.

† Hard work demonstrates integrity in ministry.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 38) commended labor as a virtue for believers.

2 Thessalonians 3:9

Not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a role model for you, so that you would follow our example.

† Paul had the right to support, but chose not to exercise it.

† His example set a pattern for others to follow.

2 Thessalonians 3:10

For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

† Paul gives a direct rule linking work with provision.

† Laziness was condemned, and responsibility commanded.

† The Mishnah (Avot 1:10) also condemned idleness and urged diligence in work.

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12

For we hear that some among you are leading a disorderly life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Now we command and exhort such persons in the Lord Jesus Christ to

work peacefully and eat their own bread.

† Some in the church had fallen into idleness and meddling.

† Paul commands peaceful diligence and self-sufficiency.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary of doing good.

† Encouragement is given to persist in righteousness.

† Doing good must not cease even under strain.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person so as not to associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. And yet do not regard that person as an enemy, but admonish that one as a brother or sister.

† Discipline is exercised with restoration in view.

† The goal is correction, not destruction of fellowship.

† Tertullian (On Modesty 13) emphasized discipline with mercy in the church.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!

† Paul's benediction points to Christ as the true source of peace.

2 Thessalonians 3:17-18

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter, this is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

† Paul's personal signature authenticated his letters.

† Grace in Christ concludes the letter, uniting all instruction in

His favor.

How it applies to us today

† 2 Thessalonians 3 shows that Christian life is one of diligence, discipline, and endurance.

† Laziness and disorder are to be avoided, while good works and perseverance must abound.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, we labor faithfully, knowing our work glorifies Christ and strengthens His church.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Wars 2.13.4 - zealots stirring unrest

† The Didache 12 - warning against idleness at the church's expense

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 38 - labor praised as a virtue

† Mishnah, Avot 1:10 - idleness condemned, diligence praised

† Tertullian, On Modesty 13 - discipline with mercy

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