

2 THESSALONIANS 3

We will begin our ministry in this new location with a conclusion – the conclusion of 2nd Thessalonians.

Paul concludes...

3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us,

- We have noticed in studying the letters from Paul that he loved to pray for his people... It is one of the Trademark characteristics of Christians that we pray for one another...
- A friend of CCSV shared with us this week that they have been driving by the building and saying prayers for us...
 - Isn't that SO sweet CCSV?
 - So, we pray for one another...
- **And we pray that...**

...the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you, **(NLT – spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes,)** 2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

- Paul had detractors and downright enemies... And so do WE! There are wicked people in our country, even in our state and city who would love nothing more than to hinder and harass Christian Educators and Christian Parents to the point of accusing them of being “Dangerous” because of their Biblical beliefs.
- When you vote this Tuesday... try to be the “Salt of the earth.” Try to preserve biblical standards of living with your vote... with your speech, and with your character.
 - Why is this SO important?
 - Because “Not all men have faith...” **BUT...**

3 ...the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

- How good is our God friends...?
- **GUZIK** - God promised to keep Satan on a leash. He will not allow any temptation to become too great for us ([1Co 10:13](#)), and will not allow Satan to do whatever he wants with us ([Luk 22:31-32](#)).
- **So be confident because...**

4 ...we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

- What things? Paul ended his first letter to them with a bullet list of things to do... Here's a few...

1 Thes. 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise prophecies.

21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

22 Abstain from every appearance of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

25 Brethren, pray for us. 26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. **High 5**

LET GOD DIRECT YOU

5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience (**The endurance**) of Christ.

- **What has the Lord taught us about endurance CCSV? (A bit)**

WARNING!

6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **(that is a strong warning...)** that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition **(Bible teaching)** which he received from us.

- This word, "Tradition" is a dangerous word... What the Apostle means by Tradition, and what some denominations teach as tradition are two or three different things...
- Paul means – Stick with the bible... Do not add to it... Do not subtract from it...
 - Some denominations start adding their own writings and prophets to the Gospel... BEWARE of that !
 - Some Christian movements begin to twist the simple last day's teachings that Paul taught in only three weeks in Thessalonica...
 - Beware of that....
 - And some just want others to take care of them... Paul says to withdraw from them... **WHY?**

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

- IE, When Paul was with them, he worked, and he worked hard!
- Sometimes he raised money, but often he EARNED money in order to be in the ministry.
- What does this tell us? That he was honest... Sincere... NOT saying what people wanted to hear.... He preached the truth. And WE should listen well to him!

NO FREE LUNCH

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.

- SO... Work hard. Take care of your own business. Do not be tempted to feel entitled to anything that you have not worked for... And be satisfied with what God has provided.
- Say this: "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."
- This is harsh, but, back away from free loaders! **Because...**

GOSSIPING IS NOT WORKING

11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

- They are givers of unsolicited advice and criticism.
- Paul has some unsolicited advice for THEM.... He says...

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.

- Chuck Smith says this means, "Shut up and get a job!"

13 But *as for you, brethren*, do not grow weary *in* doing good.

- Do not get tired of helping others in spite of the free loaders.

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.

- This is tough love, right?
- Listen, it MIGHT be just what the person needs to hear... **But....**

15 Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a

brother.

- Be slow to write people off... Give lots of second chances... Be quick to forgive... Be gentle, like God is gentle with you...
- Don't create an enemy of someone you disagree with.

HERE IS ANOTHER OF PAUL'S WONDERFUL BLESSINGS

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. *(IE, this is authentic, legit!)*

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.