

## Teaching through Thessalonians

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic and Chapter</u>
1.	The Beginning of the Thessalonian Church (Acts 16:1-17:9)
2.	Paul Thanked God for the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)
3.	The Apostles' Work at Thessalonica Was Approved by God (1 Thessalonians 2:1-12)
4.	The Apostles Greatly Appreciated the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 2:13-20)
5.	The Thessalonians' Steadfastness Comforted Paul (1 Thessalonians 3:1-13)
6.	Abound In Godly Living (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)
7.	
8.	The Day of the Lord Comes as a Thief in the Night (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)
9.	Practical Instructions in Godliness (1 Thessalonians 5:12-28)
10.	God Will Avenge the Suffering of His Saints (2 Thessalonians 1:1-12)
11.	Correction About the Day of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)
12.	Believers Should Be Steadfast in Doctrine and Prayer (2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5)
13.	Discipline for the Disorderly (2 Thessalonians 3:6-18)

Lesson 1:            The Beginning of the Thessalonian Church (Acts 16:1-17:9)

Key Verse:        "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance, as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake." (1 Thes 1:5)

Introduction:     On the second missionary journey Paul and Silas were led by Holy Spirit to Thessalonica where they established a church. This church prospered and became the recipient of two letters from the apostle Paul which were destined to become part of Holy Scripture.

I.    The Holy Spirit Led Paul and Silas to Thessalonica (Acts 16:1-40)

- A. The Holy Spirit led them on the second mission (16:1-5)
- B. The Holy Spirit led them to Macedonia (16:6-10)
- C. The Holy Spirit led them to Philippi (16:11-34)
  - 1. They traveled to Philippi (11-12)
  - 2. They attended the riverside prayer meeting (13)
  - 3. Lydia and her household were saved (14-15)
  - 4. A demon possessed girl was healed (16-18)
  - 5. Paul and Silas were imprisoned (19-26)
  - 6. The Philippian jailer was saved (27-34)
  - 7. Paul and Silas were sent from Philippi (35-40)

II.   They Established the Church of Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)

- A. Paul and Silas went to Thessalonica (17:1)
- B. Paul taught in the synagogue three Sabbaths (17:2-3)
  - 1. He reasoned from the Old Testament Scriptures (2)
  - 2. He taught that the Messiah must suffer (3)
  - 3. He taught that the Messiah must rise from the dead (3)
  - 4. He taught that Jesus is the Messiah (3)
- C. Both Jews and Gentiles believed the gospel (17:4)
  - 1. Some Jews believed
  - 2. Many devout Gentiles believed
  - 3. Many noble ladies believed
  - 4. These joined with Paul and Silas
- D. The unbelieving Jews stirred up trouble (17:5-9)
  - 1. The unbelieving Jews became envious (5)
  - 2. They stirred up a riotous mob against them (5)
  - 3. They attacked the house of Jason ((5-6)
  - 4. Jason was accused of treason (6-7)
  - 5. Jason had to post security for his release (8-9)

Conclusion:        The establishment of the church at Thessalonica was accomplished through faithful teaching and preaching of the Gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. It was accompanied by inevitable persecution that caused the church to flourish.

Lesson 2:            Paul Thanked God for the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

Key Verse:        "And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit." (1 Thes. 1:6)

Introduction:     Shortly after establishing a church at Thessalonica Paul was forced to leave. So he left co-workers to train the new believers. After receiving a report of their good progress, Paul was led by the Holy Spirit to send them this letter of encouragement.

Salutation:        Paul greeted the Thessalonian Church (1 Thes. 1:1)

I. Paul Thanked God for the Thessalonians' Conversion (1 Thes. 1:2-4)

- A. He mentioned them in his prayers (1:2)
- B. He remembered their conversion (1:3)
  - 1. He remembered their work of faith
  - 2. He remembered their labor of love
  - 3. He remembered their patience of hope
- C. He acknowledged their election by God (1:4)

II. Paul Thanked God for the Thessalonians' Evangelization (1 Thes. 1:5)

- A. The gospel came to them in more than word
- B. The gospel also came in power
- C. The gospel also came in the Holy Spirit
- D. The gospel also came in assurance
- E. The gospel came by reputable messengers

III. Paul Thanked God for the Thessalonians' Reception (1 Thes. 1:6)

- A. They received the word with much affliction
- B. They received the word with much joy
- C. They became followers of the apostles

IV. Paul Thanked God for the Thessalonians' Example (1 Thes. 1:7-10)

- A. They became examples to other believers (1:7-8)
  - 1. They sounded abroad the gospel
  - 2. Their faith was spread abroad
- B. The apostles did not need to say anything (1:8)
- C. The other believers declared their example (1:9-10)
  - 1. They declared the Apostles entry (9)
  - 2. They declared the Thessalonians' conversion (9-10)
    - a. They turned to God from idols (9)
    - b. They turned to serve the living God (9)
    - c. They turned to wait for Christ's coming (10)
      - (1) God raised Jesus from the dead
      - (2) Jesus delivered from wrath

Conclusion:        Soul winning and church planting are always occasions for thanking the Lord.

Lesson 3:        The Apostles' Work at Thessalonica Was Approved by God  
(1 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

Key Verse:        "But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts." (1 Thes. 2:4)

Introduction:     Paul's enemies in Thessalonica had accused the missionaries of unethical methods, self seeking manners, and a blameworthy ministry. Paul defended their work as fully approved by God and worthy of His approval.

I. The Apostles' Motivation Was Unquenched by Opposition (1 Thes. 2:1-2)

- A. Their coming was not in vain (2:1)
- B. They spoke the Gospel boldly under opposition (2:2)
  - 1. They previously were opposed at Philippi
    - a. They suffered at Philippi
    - b. They were spitefully treated at Philippi
  - 2. They had much conflict at Thessalonica

II. The Apostles' Methods Were Ethical as God's Trustees (1 Thes. 2:3-4)

- A. Their exhortation was with pure ethics (2:3)
  - 1. It was not from deceit
  - 2. It was not from uncleanness
  - 3. It was not in guile
- B. They spoke as God's approved trustees (2:4)
  - 1. They were approved trustees of the Gospel
  - 2. Thus they spoke to please God
    - a. Their speech was not to please men
    - b. Their speech was to please God who tests the heart

III. The Apostles' Manner Was Gentle as a Cherishing Mother (1 Thes. 2:5-8)

- A. They did not seek selfish gain (2:5-6)
  - 1. They used no flattery (5)
  - 2. They used no cloak of covetousness (5)
  - 3. They did not seek apostolic rights (6)
- B. They were gentle as a cherishing mother (2:7)
- C. They were lovingly sacrificial (2:8)
  - 1. They imparted the Gospel
  - 2. They imparted their own lives
  - 3. They loved the Thessalonians

IV. The Apostles' Ministry Was Blameless as a Caring Father (1 Thes. 2:9-12)

- A. They put no financial burden on the church (2:9)
  - 1. They worked night and day not to be a burden
  - 2. They worked at preaching the Gospel
- B. Their conduct was blameless (2:10)
- C. Their charge was to righteousness (2:11-12)
  - 1. They behaved as a caring father (11)
  - 2. They exhorted, comforted, charged (11)
  - 3. They encouraged a walk worthy of God (12)

Conclusion: The work of missionaries and Christian workers should be above reproach so that enemies of the Gospel can be put to shame for opposing it.

Lesson 4:        The Apostles Greatly Appreciated the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 2:13-20)

Key Verse:        "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe." (1 Thes. 2:13)

Introduction:     After defending the apostles' ministry at Thessalonica, Paul thanked God for the excellent reception of the Gospel there. Then he expressed their eager desire to see the Thessalonian Christians again.

I.    The Apostles' Thanked God for the Thessalonian Reception of the Gospel (1 Thes. 2:13-16)

- A. The Thessalonians received their message as God's Word (2:13)
  - 1. They heard the message from the missionaries
  - 2. They rightly received it as God's Word
  
- B. The Thessalonians became imitators of the Judean churches (2:14-16)
  - 1. They suffered at the hands of fellow countrymen (14)
  - 2. Just as the Judean churches suffered by the Jews (14-16)
    - a. The Jews killed the Lord Jesus (15)
    - b. The Jews killed their own prophets (15)
    - c. The Jews persecuted the apostles (15)
    - d. The Jews do not please God (15)
    - e. The Jews forbid evangelizing the Gentiles (16)
    - f. The Jews fill up their measure of sin (16)
    - g. The Jews receive uttermost wrath (16)

II. The Apostles Eagerly Desired to See the Thessalonians Again (1 Thes. 2:17-20)

- A. They were temporarily absent in presence, not heart (2:17)
  
- B. They eagerly endeavored to see the Thessalonians (2:17)
  
- C. They were hindered by Satan time and again (2:18)
  
- D. Their hope and joy was the Thessalonians at Christ's coming (2:19-20)

Conclusion:        Christians should regularly thank God for the success of missionary activity. They should rejoice at the hope of seeing the new converts at the second coming of Christ.

Lesson 5:            The Thessalonians' Steadfastness Comforted Paul (1 Thessalonians 3:1-13)

Key Verse:            "For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord." (1 Thes. 3:8)

Introduction:        After Paul was forced to leave Thessalonica, he longed for news of their welfare. He sent Timothy to encourage them and to bring back a progress report. The report greatly encouraged Paul in his own trials. This chapter commends the church for their steadfastness.

I. Paul Sent Timothy to Comfort the Thessalonians (1 Thes. 3:1-5)

- A. Paul remained in Athens alone (3:1)
- B. Timothy was well qualified for the assignment (3:2)
  - 1. He was a brother and a minister of God
  - 2. He was a fellow laborer in the Gospel of Christ
- C. Timothy's object was to build up their faith (3:2)
  - 1. He was to establish them in their faith
  - 2. He was to encourage them in their faith
- D. Timothy's purpose was to stabilize them in their trials (3:3)
  - 1. They had severe tribulation
  - 2. They were appointed to this
  - 3. They were told this beforehand
- E. Paul sought to know the state of their faith (3:5)
  - 1. He could wait no longer to know
  - 2. He had feared they would be tempted to waver
  - 3. He had feared his labor was in vain

II. Paul Was Comforted by Timothy's Good Report (1 Thes. 3:6-10)

- A. Timothy brought back a good report (3:6)
  - 1. The Thessalonians remained steadfast in faith and love
  - 2. The Thessalonians remembered Paul affectionately
  - 3. The Thessalonians wanted to see Paul again
- B. The report comforted Paul in his own trials (3:7-10)
  - 1. Paul's personal life was wrapped up in them (7-8)
  - 2. Paul's prayer life was wrapped up in them (9-10)
    - a. How else could he thank God for them? (9)
    - b. He prayed regularly for their perfection (10)

III. Paul Prayed for Their Spiritual Growth (1 Thes. 3:11-13)

- A. May God direct him back to the Thessalonians (3:11)
- B. May the Lord make their love abound (3:12)
- C. The purpose is their spiritual maturity (3:13)
  - 1. May the Lord establish their hearts in holiness
  - 2. This is in expectation of Christ's coming

Conclusion:        Christians encourage one another by reports of spiritual growth, and discourage one another by reports of failure.

Lesson 6:            Abound In Godly Living (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

Key Verse:        "For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness." (1 Thes. 4:7)

Introduction:     After having commended the Thessalonians for progress in their newly found faith, and having defended his ministry against false accusations, Paul encouraged them to abound in godly living.

I. Abound in a God-pleasing Walk (1 Thes. 4:1-8)

- A. Paul urged the Thessalonians to walk pleasing to God (4:1-2)
  - 1. He had urged and exhorted them in the Lord (1)
  - 2. They had received his exhortation (1)
  - 3. They knew the commandments already given (2)
- B. God's will is their sanctification (4:3-6)
  - 1. Be sanctified by abstaining from immorality (3)
  - 2. Be sanctified by controlling one's own body (4-5)
    - a. Control it in sanctification and honor (4)
    - b. It should not be controlled by passion and lust (5)
  - 3. Be sanctified by honoring the moral rights of others (6)
    - a. Do not take advantage of them by immorality
    - b. Do not defraud them with immorality
    - c. God avenges those who violate others
    - d. The Thessalonians had been forewarned
- C. God's call is their holiness (4:7)
- D. Whoever rejects God's will and call rejects God Himself (4:8)
  - 1. The rejection is not merely of man
  - 2. God gave the Holy Spirit for sanctification and holiness

II. Abound in Brotherly Love (1 Thes. 4:9-10)

- A. The Thessalonians need no instructions to love (4:9)
- B. They were taught of God to love (4:9)
- C. They did love all the brethren (4:10)
- D. They should abound more and more in love (4:10)

III. Abound in a God-honoring Walk (1 Thes. 4:11-12)

- A. Honor God in the personal walk (4:11)
  - 1. Lead a quiet life
  - 2. Mind one's own business
  - 3. Work with one's own hands
- B. Honor God in the public walk (4:12)
- C. God will supply all needs (4:12)

Conclusion:        Christians should please God through sanctification, holiness, brotherly love, and a good testimony.



Lesson 8:            The Day of the Lord Comes as a Thief in the Night (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

Key Verse:        "For yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." (1 Thes 5:2)

Introduction:     After comforting the Thessalonian believers with instruction about the rapture of the living and dead, Paul encouraged them to be ready for the Day of the Lord even though they would escape the wrath to come.

I. Unbelievers Do Not Expect the Day of the Lord (1 Thes. 5:1-3)

- A. The Thessalonians needed no added instruction (5:1)
- B. The Day of the Lord comes unannounced (5:2)
  - 1. It comes as a thief in the night
  - 2. They already knew this perfectly
- C. The Day of the Lord comes unexpectedly on the world (5:3)
  - 1. It comes when the world feels safe and secure
  - 2. It comes with sudden destruction
  - 3. It comes as labor pains on an expectant mother
  - 4. There shall be no escape

II. Believers Should Anticipate the Day of the Lord (1 Thes. 5:4-8)

- A. Believers should not be surprised by The Day (5:4)
  - 1. Believers are not of the darkness
  - 2. The Day should not overtake believers as a thief
- B. Believers should be watching for the Day (5:5-7)
  - 1. Believers are sons of the light not darkness (5)
  - 2. Therefore they should be watchful (6)
    - a. They should not sleep as do unbelievers
    - b. They should watch for the Day
    - c. They should be sober
  - 3. Unbelievers are asleep and drunk (7)
- C. Believers should be prepared for the Day (5:8)
  - 1. They should be sober
  - 2. They should be armored with faith, hope, and love

III. Believers Will Escape the Wrath of the Day of the Lord (1 Thes. 5:9-11)

- A. God did not appoint believers to wrath (5:9)
- B. God appointed believers to salvation (5:9-10)
  - 1. Salvation is through the Lord Jesus Christ (9)
  - 2. Salvation is through Christ's death (10)
  - 3. Salvation is that believers should live with Him (10)
    - a. Salvation is for living believers
    - b. Salvation is for dead believers
- C. Believers should be encouraged by this truth (5:11)
  - 1. They should be comforted
  - 2. They should be exhorted

Conclusion:        The rapture of the Church ushers in the Tribulation at the beginning of the Day of the Lord. Christians should live in expectation of these imminent events.

Lesson 9:            Practical Instructions in Godliness (1 Thessalonians 5:12-28)

Key Verse:        "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. (1 Thes. 5:14)

Introduction:     Paul closed his letter with practical instructions in godly living in the area of authority, spiritual growth, worship, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and personal godliness.

I. Peaceably Submit to Church Authority (1 Thes. 5:12-13)

A. Recognize the authority of your leaders (5:12)

1. They labor among you
2. They are over you
3. They admonish you

B. Highly esteem your leaders (5:13)

1. Esteem them in love
2. Esteem them for their work's sake

II. Persistently Support Spiritual Growth (1 Thes. 5:14-15)

A. Patiently minister to the weak (5:14)

1. Warn the unruly
2. Comfort the fainthearted
3. Uphold the weak

B. Prevent evil retaliation (5:15)

C. Pursue mutual good (5:15)

III. Perpetually Worship God (1 Thes. 5:16-18)

A. Rejoice always (5:16)

B. Unceasingly pray (5:17)

C. Universally give thanks (5:18)

D. This is God's will (5:18u)

IV. Positively Promote the Spirit's Ministry (1 Thes. 5:19-22)

A. Do not quench the Spirit (5:19)

B. Do not despise spiritual gifts (5:20)

C. Do not be doctrinally gullible (5:21)

D. Do not practice any form of evil (5:22)

V. Personally Practice Godly Living (1 Thes. 5:23-27)

A. Expect God's blessing (5:23)

1. May God sanctify you
2. May God preserve you wholly

B. Trust God's promises (5:24)

C. Encourage God's people (5:25-27)

1. Pray for missionaries (25)
2. Greet the brethren (26)
3. Read God's Word (27)

Final Benediction (5:28)

Conclusion: Christians need regular reminders to help one another practice godly living.

Lesson 10:        God Will Avenge the Suffering of His Saints (2 Thessalonians 1:1-12)

Key Verse:        "Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you." (2 Thes 1:6)

Introduction:     After having written the first epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul received word of their severe persecution and tribulation. Paul wrote again to encourage them and remind them of God's righteous judgment of the wicked.

Salutation (2 Thes. 1:1-2)

I. The Thessalonian Testimony Was Praiseworthy (2 Thes. 1:3-4)

- A. Thanks was given for their abounding faith and love (1:3)
  - 1. Their faith grew exceedingly
  - 2. Their love abounded
- B. Boasting was made of their endurance of trials (1:4)
  - 1. They had patience and faith in persecution
  - 2. They endured persecution

II. God Will Avenge Their Suffering (2 Thes. 1:5-10)

- A. Their endurance is evidence of God's righteous judgment (1:5)
  - 1. Their endurance enables them to be counted worthy
  - 2. They suffer for the Kingdom of God
- B. God will repay their persecutors (1:6)
  - 1. It is just for God to repay them
  - 2. He will repay them with tribulation
- C. But He will give rest to the persecuted (1:7)
- D. The vengeance will occur at Christ's "revelation" (1:7)
- E. God will take fiery vengeance on the wicked (1:8)
  - 1. They do not know God
  - 2. They do not obey the Gospel
- F. The wicked will be punished with everlasting destruction (1:9)
  - 1. They will be destroyed from the presence of the Lord
  - 2. They will be destroyed from the glory of His power
- G. The punishment will occur when Christ comes (1:10)
  - 1. He will come to be glorified in His saints
  - 2. He will come to be admired among the believers
  - 3. This will happen because the Gospel was believed

III. Prayer Is Needed for Ultimate Reward (2 Thes. 1:11-12)

- A. Paul prayed that God would count them worthy (1:11)
- B. Paul prayed that God would fulfill all His good pleasure (1:11)
- C. Paul prayed that Christ would be glorified in believers (1:12)
- D. Paul prayed that believers would be glorified in Christ (1:12)

Conclusion:        Although Christians may have to endure persecution and tribulation, God will avenge their suffering by repaying their oppressors, and by punishing all the wicked at the coming of Christ.

Lesson 11:        Correction About the Day of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

Key Verse:        "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition."  
(2 Thes. 2:3)

Introduction:     The Thessalonians were experiencing serious tribulation and someone had falsely told them that they were in the Great Tribulation and had missed the rapture. Paul wrote to correct this error.

I. Do Not Be Disturbed About the Rapture of the Church (2 Thes. 2:1)

- A. Do not be disturbed about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ
- B. Do not be disturbed about our gathering together to Him

II. Do Not Be Disturbed as Though the Day of Christ Had Come (2 Thes. 2:2)

- A. Do not be shaken in mind about it
- B. Do not be troubled about it
- C. Do not be disturbed by false teaching about it
  - 1. False teaching may come by a spirit of error
  - 2. False teaching may come by erroneous message
  - 3. False teaching may come by forged letter from Paul

III. Do Not Be Deceived About the Coming of the Day of Lord (2 Thes. 2:3-12)

- A. The falling away must come first (2:3)
- B. The man of sin must be revealed first (2:3-8)
  - 1. His revelation will expose his true character (3-5)
    - a. The man of sin will be the son of perdition (3)
    - b. The man of sin will oppose every thing of God (4)
    - c. The man of sin will exalt himself above God (4)
    - d. The man of sin will proclaim himself God (4)
    - e. Remember that you were told these things before (5)
  - 2. His revelation is now being restrained (6)
    - a. You know what the restraining power is
    - b. His revelation is restrained until its proper time
  - 3. His revelation will follow the removal of the Restrainer (7-8)
    - a. The Restrainer will be taken out of the way (7)
      - (1) The mystery of lawlessness is already at work
      - (2) But the Restrainer will continue until the proper time
      - (3) When will the Restrainer be taken out of the way
    - b. Then the lawless one will be revealed (8)
      - (1) The Lord will consume him with the breath of His mouth
      - (2) The Lord will destroy him with the brightness of His coming
- C. The man of sin will come according to the working of Satan (2:9-12)
  - 1. He will work deceptive miracles (9)
  - 2. He will work unrighteous deception among the lost (10-12)
    - a. They will be deceived because they refused the truth (10)

- b. They will be deceived because God will send them delusion (11)
  - (1) He will do this because they refused the truth (11)
  - (2) He will do this that they will believe the lie (11)
  - (3) He will do this that they may be condemned (12)

Conclusion: The next event on God's prophetic calendar is the rapture of the church. Christians should live with this great hope in mind.

Lesson 12:        Believers Should Be Steadfast in Doctrine and Prayer  
(2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5)

Key Verse:        "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or by our epistle. (2 Thes. 2:15)

Introduction:     After informing the believers about the Day of the Lord and the man of sin, Paul instructed the believers to hold fast to sound doctrine and to pray for his ministry.

I. Thanks Was Given for Their Election and Calling (2 Thes. 2:13-14)

- A. Thanks was given to God for the believers (2:13)
  - 1. Thanks was given always
  - 2. The believers were beloved of the Lord
- B. God has chosen them for salvation (2:13)
  - 1. The choice was from the beginning
  - 2. Salvation is through sanctification by the Spirit
  - 3. Salvation is through belief in the truth
- C. God had called them to salvation (2:14)
  - 1. The call came by the Apostles' gospel
  - 2. The call was for obtaining the glory of Christ

II. The Believers Should Hold to Sound Doctrine (2 Thes. 2:15-17)

- A. They should hold fast the Apostolic tradition (2:15)
- B. They had been taught the Apostolic tradition (2:15)
  - 1. It was taught verbally by word
  - 2. It was taught by written epistle
- C. The Lord will help them do this (2:16-17)
  - 1. The help will come from the Father and the Son (16)
  - 2. The Lord has loved them (16)
  - 3. The Lord has given them consolation and hope (16)
  - 4. The help will come by God's grace (16)
  - 5. The Lord will comfort their hearts
  - 6. The Lord will establish them in word and work

III. The Believers Should Pray For the Apostles' Ministry (2 Thes. 3:1-5)

- A. They should pray for the success of the Gospel (3:1)
  - 1. They should pray that the Word would have free course
  - 2. They should pray that the Word would be glorified
- B. They should pray for the Apostles' protection (3:2)
  - 1. Pray for deliverance from unreasonable men
  - 2. Pray for deliverance from wicked men
- C. The Lord will keep them from the evil one (3:3)
  - 1. The Lord is faithful to do this
  - 2. The Lord will establish them
  - 3. The Lord will guard them
- D. The believers should obey these commands (3:4)
  - 1. The Apostles had confidence in the Lord for this
  - 2. The Apostles had confidence in the believers for this

- E. The Lord will guide them in love and patience (3:5)
  - 1. He will direct their hearts into the love of God
  - 2. He will direct their hearts into the patience of Christ.

Conclusion: Christians should be thankful for the grace of God, remain true to the sound doctrine taught to them be faithful teachers, and pray for the success of the ministry.

Lesson 13:        Discipline for the Disorderly (2 Thessalonians 3:6-18)

Key Verse:        "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed." (2 Thes. 3:14)

Introduction:     As Paul brought his epistle to a close, he commanded the church leaders to exercise discipline on those who were refusing to work. Those who did not respond to loving exhortation were to be excluded from the fellowship to shame them into repentance.

- I. Command Withdrawal from Disorderly Brethren (2 Thes. 3:6)
  - A. The command was given in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - B. Withdraw from every disorderly brother
    1. Their manner of life was disorderly
    2. Their manner of life was contrary to Apostolic tradition
- II. Follow the Apostolic Example of Self-Support (2 Thes. 3:7-10)
  - A. The church knew to follow the Apostolic example (3:7)
  - B. The Apostles set an example of self-support (3:7--10)
    1. They were not disorderly (7)
    2. They earned their own sustenance (8-9)
      - a. They did not eat free of charge (8)
      - b. They worked hard to pay their own way (8)
      - c. They worked so as not to be a burden to others (8)
      - d. They had authority to receive support (9)
      - e. They deliberately worked to set an example (9)
    3. The Apostles had previously commanded self-support (10)
      - a. The command was given while they were still there
      - b. The command was: No work, no food!
- III. Exercise Discipline in the Church (2 Thes. 3:11-15)
  - A. There were members who needed discipline (3:11)
    1. Reports were received about the disorderly
    2. They walked in a disorderly manner
    3. They did not work at all
    4. They were busybodies
  - B. They were to be exhorted to work for self support (3:12)
    1. They should work in quietness
    2. They should eat their own food
  - C. The leaders were to not despair in the exhorting process (3:13)
  - D. The disobedient were to be excluded (3:14)
    1. Disobedience was against the Word of God
    2. The disobedient were to be noted
    3. The disobedient were not to receive fellowship
    4. The purpose was to make them ashamed of their disobedience
  - E. The disobedient were to be treated as a brother (3:15)
    1. Do not count him as an enemy
    2. Admonish him as a brother



Benediction (3:16-18)

Conclusion: Church discipline is necessary for the good of the congregation. To neglect it is to regret it.