

2 Thessalonians

Week 7 Closing Commands and Blessings

February 28, 2024

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

The apostle Paul now addresses vital issues in the life of the church. He uses the strongest language he can to communicate the seriousness of what the Thessalonians may be overlooking.

1. A Warning Against Idleness. Verses 6-9

In our nation today, idleness among those who have no reason to be idle is a very real problem. It was a problem in the Thessalonian Church. People can be idle in their service to their fellowman and in their service to God's people.

Idle and disruptive: laziness leading to the disruption of others who are serving. Those who have no direction, who are shiftless have the potential to become busybodies (vs. 11)

What is a busybody? _____

What is so dangerous to a church that Paul would issue such a strong command to not associate with this kind of person? _____

Paul offers himself and his companion missionaries as an example of how to live and work.

2. The Command to those who are idle. Verses 10-13

This was a big problem in this church as Paul warned them in his first letter. (1 Thess. 5:14). There are theories as to why this was such an issue in that church.

- A. Perhaps they believed Jesus was going to return at any moment so why bother working?
- B. They simply developed the habit of dependency on others when they could have been earning their own way. They needed to settle down and earn the food they eat. (verse 12) Gal. 6:2-5
Instead of being busybodies they were to focus on doing good deeds.

3. A clarifying statement on how to treat those who are willfully disobedient. Verse 14-15

There has been and always will be sin in the church of Jesus Christ, for we all still have the flesh to deal with in this life. The question isn't if there will be, the question is what do we say and do about it? This teaching from God's Word concerns those who are willfully disobedient to God's Word and refuse to deal with sin in their own life. And expect it to just be overlooked by the church.

How should believers relate to such a person: according to this passage:

Note who they are. Do not associate with them.

Do not treat them like an enemy- but warn them as a fellow believer.

The aim of disassociating is not punishment. The aim is that they might feel the real weight of their rebellion- and turn back to the LORD in repentance. That the reality of what is happening to them in the spiritual realm will be made manifest in the physical realm. In summary they are experience loss. (See the Prodigal Son- Luke 15).

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Important observations concerning this issue:

It would be a disservice to a rebellious brother or sister to act like everything is fine when it isn't. The Bible addresses other acts of rebellion as reason to disassociate from a professing believer who is willfully and actively rebellious unwilling to confess and repent.

The Hot-Tempered Individual. Proverbs 22:24-25

Someone who claims to be a Christian yet display the following: 1 Cor. 5:9-11

Why is it important to not allow these things to just be overlooked?

It is harming your brother or sister in Christ. They are being deceived. Galatians 6:7-8

The person may be a wolf in sheep's clothing with potential to do harm to the flock of God. Matthew 7:15-20

What is the evidence that a person is a Christian and serious about sin when they commit it?

1. They display authentic _____ (1 John 1:8-10)

2. They display Godly _____ (2 Corinthians 7:8-13)

3. They pay _____ when necessary to those they have sinned against.

The Law of God concerning restitution: (Leviticus 6:1-5)

The story of Zaccheaus. (Luke 19)

4. Final Blessing. Verses 16-17.

Paul's desire is that the church always enjoy the peace of God. This is only accomplished as the church follows the way of Christ.

Paul often had someone dictate his letters for him- but he would sign them himself.

Paul closes with His desire for the grace (unmerited favor of God) to be upon them.