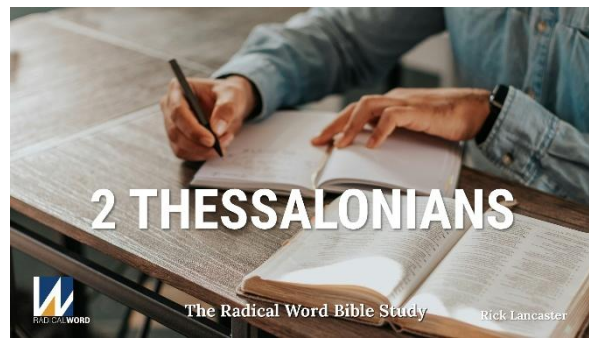




Verse-by-verse Bible Study

Teaching Notes

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

Live streamed on September 4, 2025

@Calvary Chapel French Valley, Murrieta, California

Rick Lancaster

Teaching Notes

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

Opening Comments

- **RECORD**
- Welcome to episode 10 of the Radical Word Bible Study Podcast Live Stream.
- I am Rick Lancaster, and we are coming to you live from our podcasting studio in Murrieta, California at Calvary Chapel French Valley.
- We have a service every Sunday @ 9:30 am.
- Come check us out, we think you will like it.
- We are streaming this Bible Study live on Rumble, Facebook, and YouTube.
- And, if you would like to help us get these teaching out, please like, share, and subscribe.
- All nine previous episodes are now available on most podcasting applications.
- It is listed under Radical Word Bible Study with Rick Lancaster.
- Let me know if you have any trouble finding it.
- And if you are listening to this as a podcast, please rate and comment, it helps with the algorithms.
- If you are listening to the podcast and would like to tune in to the live stream, you can go to radicalword.com and click on one of the links at the top of the page.
- If you are interested in staying up to date with what is happening at The Radical Word, here is a link that you can use to get connected.
- This link will also be in the description for this video.
- Also, I publish a daily devotional that I send out by email.
- I will include a link to that as well.
- Today is Thursday, September 4, 2025.
- Today's Hebrew date is 11th of Elul, 5785
- [coffee mug] Tatooine.

- This is a gift to me from Joe and Debbie. They are big fans of Disney.
- -
- Today is National Macadamia Nut Day.
- Makes me want to make a trip back to Hawaii.
- Which, by the way, is where I met my wife Kelly.
- It is also Eat an Extra Dessert Day. I'll have some licorice.
- -
- -
- [Look up this day in history]
- September 4th, 1781 Los Angeles was founded by Spanish settlers.
- Also, September 4th, 1981 – Beyonce was born.
- -
- As a reminder, I will be responding to the chat live.
- If you have questions or comments, put them in the chat.
- If you do that, keep them brief, please.
- Okay, let's get into our study tonight.
- -
- -
- **Pray**

Teaching

- Tonight, we continue studying through 2 Thessalonians.
- Turn to **2 Thessalonians 2**.
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- Paul wrote a second letter to the church in Thessalonica.
- To deal with a question that had come up regarding the Second Coming of Christ.
- When Jesus was born to the virgin Mary, that was His First Coming/Advent.
- The word advent means coming.
- Refer remember the day Jesus died for our sins on Good Friday.

- As horrible as the cross was and the suffering Jesus endured on our behalf, His death is the greatest good the world has ever known.
- The way was opened for fallen mankind to be cleansed of their sins and made right in the eyes of God.
- Jesus did for us what we could never in a million years do for ourselves.
- It was a rescue mission.
- Jesus rescued us from eternal separation from God that our sins deserved.
- The cross is a radical expression of Christ's and God's love. **John 3:16**

¹⁶ **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

- It was the ultimate expression of the verse at the bottom of every email I send out. **John 15:13**

¹³ **Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**

- Before Jesus left, told His disciples He was coming back. [John 14]
- First time Jesus came, He did so as the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world.
- He was meek, gentle, and humble.
- He came as the Suffering Servant.
- The Jewish religious establishment rejected Jesus because that was not the Messiah they wanted.
- They wanted a king, like David to come and rule and deal with 'their' enemies.
- When He comes again, it will not be as a lamb but as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.
- He will not deal with the enemies of the Jews, He will come as the righteous Judge and judge all peoples for their wickedness and rebellion against God.
- He will pour out His wrath upon this wicked, God-hating, Christ-rejecting world.
- But before He does that He will come and take His church out of the world in the event we call the Rapture.
- We talked about that in Episode 5.

- Go back and listen to it if you want more information about it.
- In between the Rapture and Second Coming is a 7-year period – The Tribulation.
- God pours out His unrestrained wrath on this world.
- The church in Thessalonica is experiencing persecution.
- They are wondering if they are in the time of God’s judgment.
- This is also what some of the false teachers were telling them.
- It is not clear why they would do that.
- It is still going on today.
- Some believe all the pain and suffering and misery in the world is a sign that we are in the Tribulation.
- First, the Tribulation is a defined period of time – seven years.
- Second, the judgments described in Revelation are much worse than anything this world has ever seen.
- In two of the judgments, half of the world’s people die quickly.
- That would be close to four billion people.
- God’s judgment on this world is still future.
- How far in the future we do not know.
- Jesus would tell us to be ready and to help others get ready.
- Paul will address in this chapter what appears to be the reason he wrote to them.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**
- Some believe a letter was circulating claiming that the persecution was a sign of the Tribulation.
- May have even used Paul’s name in the letter.
- Again, the motivation for doing that is unclear.
- In verse one refers to both the Second Coming and Rapture.
- Saying don’t get freaked out – neither one has happened.
- Don’t be quickly distressed or unsettled.
- Don’t be alarmed or disturbed.
- Listen, if someone tells us anything about God or His Word or the future and we are any of those things, we either don’t understand, or it is wrong.
- God’s Word is peace and comfort to believers.

- When you read God's Word or hear someone preach it, there might be conviction, but you should never be freaked out, disturbed, or distressed by it.
- We are God's children.
- I might feel conviction that I am not living up to that high standard of being a child of God, but distress is sign of fear.
- We have nothing to fear from God, He loves us with an infinite love.
- If you do get freaked out about something, do what Paul said in

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- The natural state of our heart ought to be peace and rest and joy.
- God's love ought to be an umbrella that keeps the wrong things of this world from unsettling us.
- The Day of Christ, the Second Coming of Christ is approaching.
- It is not here yet.
- Something else must happen first.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**
- Let no one deceive you.
- First, there are forces at work in the world that will attempt to deceive.
- Jesus warned us that they will even come after God's people.

Matthew 24:23-25

²³ "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

- People have claimed to be the Christ since Jesus ascended back to heaven.
- The word Christ comes from the Hebrew word for Messiah, or Savior.
- People come claimed to be the savior of mankind, and some even say or at least imply they are the divine one.
- Jesus said, and Paul repeats it here, do not be deceived.
- How do we do that? How do we keep from being deceived?
- We begin by understanding that deception is not usually overt.
- It is usually subtle, like the serpent in the Garden with Eve.

- Satan tempted Eve to question God's goodness and she was deceived.
- There are many things we can do to prevent deception from creeping into our heart and mind.
- Be careful to examine everything that you allow residence in your heart or mind.
- There is a spiritual battle going on for your heart and mind, you must fight with spiritual weapons. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

- Paul also tells us how to evaluate those things. **Philippians 4:8**

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- In 2015 leading up to the presidential election, things were being said about Donald Trump that made him sound like a horrible human being.
- I remember people talking to me about it and I would ask them, 'How do you know that is true?'
- They would reply with something like that's what they are saying on the news.
- If the last ten years have proven anything it is that the liberal media cannot be trusted to tell the truth.
- Someone has fed them a series of lies and they gladly repeat them because it fits to narrative they want to communicate.
- That is not journalism.
- In a way it makes me sad, it appears that most of them actually believe the lies are truth and that the truth is evil.
- What a terrible way to live.
- Paul says in verse three, before Jesus comes back that the 'falling away' must happen first.
- The Greek word Paul uses for 'falling away' is 'ἀποστασία' (apostasia).
- We get the English word apostasy from this.

Falling away/apostasy: the act of refusing to accept or acknowledge something; especially religious beliefs.

- It includes the idea of rebellion or abandonment.
- This is not just about not believing.
- Throughout history most of the world has not believed the gospel of God in Christ Jesus.
- This speaks of a movement away from God within the church.
- There are signs of this all around us.
- This is one of those areas where people may not agree with my position on the apostasy.
- I am convinced this will take place after the Rapture of the church.
- Wait, you might say, how can there be a falling away in the church after the Rapture of the church.
- There are churches that will barely notice the Rapture of the church.
- In Revelation 17, we see what will happen to the ‘great harlot’, the false church that flourishes during the Tribulation and helps the Antichrist ascend to power.
- The Tribulation church, the great harlot, will be an abomination of religious practices.
- What we see going on in the world in the liberal church and the false churches are just the precursor materials that will be combined to form the great harlot Tribulation abomination church.
- God’s real church will be gone before the fullness of the falling away happens.
- But there is no doubt that it is coming.
- Until that time, churches like ours must be faithful to teach the Word of God boldly.
- It won’t always be possible to do that. **2 Timothy 4:3-4**
³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
- It is one of the signs of the times warning us to be ready and help others get ready for Christ’s coming.
- Paul says that when that falling away happens, the man of sin will be revealed.

- This person goes by many titles in the Bible.
- Here in this verse he is referred to as the son of perdition, destruction, ruin.
- He is referred to as the ‘beast’ in Revelation, best known as the Antichrist.
- He will be controlled and empowered and eventually possessed by Satan.
- Will ascend to great power, control the whole world.
- Once He is established, will declare himself to be God, demand worship.
- Satan’s desire is to have the worship only God deserves.
- His pride got him kicked out of heaven.
- Somehow he convinced a third of the angels to follow him in his rebellion against God.
- Those fallen angels are what we read in Scripture as demons.
- Demons are just as real as angels are.
- And they are evil and hate God and those made in the image of God.
- Satan has failed to win the kingdom from God, and so he has set his mind to get mankind to worship him as God.
- For a brief time he will be successful through the efforts of the Antichrist.
- Satan, through the Antichrist, will declare himself to be God and demand the worship him.
- You should note where he will do this – in the temple of God.
- At the time Paul wrote this, the temple of God in Jerusalem still stood.
- In less than twenty years after Paul wrote this, the Romans would come and lay siege to Jerusalem and eventually take the city and burn the temple to the ground.
- For almost two-thousand years, the place where the temple stood has been vacant.
- It is on what is called the Temple mount, where another religious site also stands, the Dome on the Rock, a Muslim mosque.
- The Jews are barely allowed to go up on the temple mount, let alone build a temple there.

- But eventually they will, with the aid of the person who will later be identified as the Antichrist.
- The Jews have been actively preparing to rebuild the temple and resume temple worship rites and feasts.
- What is hindering Satan's plans to have the temple rebuilt and make the world worship him as God?
- **2 Thessalonians 2:5-7**
- 'lawlessness' = unrestrained wickedness.
- The 'mystery of lawlessness' is referring to why God allows lawlessness. If He can restrain some of it, He could restrain all of it.
- It is a mystery – a divine secret.
- God knows and He doesn't feel it is necessary to reveal that secret to us.
- As we look at this world, it might be hard to believe that wickedness is being restrained at all.
- But the fact that it is being restrained ought to be terrifying to us.
- Imagine if there was no restraint at all and evil and wicked people had nothing stopping them from doing wickedly.
- The 'He' of verse 7 = the Holy Spirit – He is restraining evil.
- Not allowing it to run out of control.
- Jesus speaking of the Holy Spirit **John 16:8**.
- **⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**
- But some day He is going to be 'taken out of the way'.
- That day is the day of the Rapture.
- Once the church is gone, the Holy Spirit will stop restraining evil.
- Godless, organized religion will then 'fall away' from truth and sound doctrine and become the Great Harlot of Revelation 17.
- There is another point where people might disagree.
- When it says, the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way, some interpret that to mean He will be taken out of the world.
- One of the traits of the nature of God is Omnipresence.
- God is everywhere present all the time.

- The Holy Spirit is God – He is omnipresent.
- Being taken out of the way doesn't mean being taken out of the world, just out of the way of those who want to do evil.
- If you disagree with that interpretation, that's okay, it won't change anything that will be happening in the world.
- I also believe the Holy Spirit must be present in the world to help people come to faith.
- Hundreds of millions of people will turn to Christ and they are going to need the Holy Spirit to do that.
- It is after Spirit stops restraining that the Antichrist will be revealed.
- Which means, in my humble opinion, after the church has removed from the earth before the wrath of God comes.
- That is why we don't try to identify the Antichrist today.
- One interesting fact about Jesus coming for the church, no one knows when that will happen. **Matthew 24:36**

³⁶ **But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**

- If the angels don't know when Jesus is coming back, neither does Satan.
- That means He always has to have someone lined up to be the Antichrist in every generation.
- God had shown the fate of the Antichrist.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:8**

- Paul uses words suggested the destruction of the Antichrist.
- We see a different picture in **Revelation 19:20**

²⁰ **Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

- The beast is the Antichrist.
- The false prophet is a religious man who aligns with the Antichrist to convince the world to worship Satan.
- It says they are cast alive into the Lake of Fire.
- In fact, they are the first two cast into the Lake of Fire.
- A possible interpretation of this is that Jesus will kill their human bodies with the breath of His mouth and the glory of His coming.

- To exist in the Lake of Fire forever, they need a new body designed to suffer for eternity.
- The Lake of Fire is the place of eternal punishment.
- It is reserved for those who reject the gospel and rebel against God.
- It is a place of never-ending torment and conscious suffering.
- We should not feel sorry for the Antichrist or false prophet – they had the same chance to believe and repent as we did.
- They made their choice and God will give them, in His righteous judgment, exactly what they deserve.
- Without the restraint of the Holy Spirit Satan will do everything he is able to convince people to worship him.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**

- Antichrist will be exactly what the world is looking for.
- But not really, ‘unrighteous deception’ – Satan is an excellent liar.

John 8:44

⁴⁴ **You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.**

- Satan is a supernatural creature.
- He operates in the supernatural and can influence the natural world in supernatural ways.
- When the supernatural intersects with the natural realm we perceive a miracle.
- That’s what a miracle is – something that is beyond the natural realm.
- Today, the Holy Spirit is restraining evil, but Satan is still able to do his work, including signs and miracles.
- We should have healthy skepticism when it comes to miracles.
- We believe God still does miracles – every day, all over the world.
- But if Satan can work miracles too, we should make sure who is working.
- One of the spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 is discerning of spirits.
- That is what that gift is for, which spiritual force is at work.
- Is it God the holy Spirit, or some other spiritual force?
- Satan’s goal through the Antichrist will be to deceive.

- His target will be ‘those who perish’.
- These are the lost – those who reject Christ. **1 Corinthians 1:18**
¹⁸ **For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**
- If someone rejects the gospel, they expose themselves to the deception of the devil.
- They are vulnerable to his lies because they have rejected the truth.
- One of the ways God is going to judge unbelievers is to cause them to believe the lies of Antichrist.
- ‘did not receive the love of the truth’.
- When Jesus told the disciples He was leaving, told them how they could follow.
- They didn’t understand – don’t know the way. **John 14:6**
⁶ **Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**
- Jesus = truth, died to offer His love to everyone.
- To not receive Jesus = ‘not receive the love of the truth’.
- Paul saying to the Thessalonians, you are not experiencing God’s judgment.
- That is reserved for those who reject the truth of Jesus.
- They could have been saved, but they chose to reject Christ.
- And then Paul tells them how God will help them to believe the lie.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:11-12**
- After the church is gone, God will send a series of judgments to punish the world for thousands of years of sin.
- One of the judgments God will send is a strong delusion to those who reject the truth so that they more easily believe the lies that will end up destroying them.
- We might wonder how that would work but we have to look no further than the current delusion of gender identity.
- There are people who say they believe they are a gender other than the one they were born with.
- Some will even go so far as to chemically and surgically alter their body to make themselves look like the gender they identify as.

- And some even suggest that a man pretending to be a woman can become pregnant and give birth to a child.
- That is delusion, it is not real, and never will be.
- Some take this one step further and look at their children and delude themselves into believing they are a different gender and then work to transition them.
- That is a delusion that leads to life-altering abuse of children.
- Once you reject truth, any lie can be believed.
- What we see going on today, is a shadow of what will happen after the church is gone and the Holy Spirit is no longer restraining evil and God sends a strong delusion enabling people to believe that most heinous of lies.
- I am so glad we are not going to be here when that happens.
- And the purpose of the delusion is ‘that they all may be condemned’.
- Their punishment for rejecting truth is believe a lie that condemns their soul to hell forever.
- Instead of truth, they had pleasure in unrighteousness.
- They took pleasure in doing what was wrong.
- Paul shifts attention away from the coming judgment to the faith of the Thessalonians.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**
- Calls Thessalonians ‘beloved by the Lord’.
- Christ’s love for His people is a continuous activity.
- There are three aspects of Christ’s love for us.
- **Past** – God chose you from the beginning for salvation.
- Beginning of what? **Ephesians 1:4**
- ⁴ **Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...**
- Jesus loved you and planned on saving you before He created the world you live on.
- Some struggle with the doctrine of election.
- Don’t! God chose you. Rejoice in that.
- You don’t need to understand election to thank God for choosing you.
- Don’t worry about who God chooses or may not choose – God chose you.

- **Present** – ‘through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth’
- No one can ever be good enough to be saved.
- And no one is so bad that Jesus can’t save them.
- The only people Jesus saves are people that are messed up with sin.
- Jesus loves and receives us just as we are.
- We don’t need to get our act together to be saved.
- We couldn’t even if we tried.
- If Jesus didn’t accept just as we are, we would never get saved.
- But He also loves us so much that He won’t leave as we are.
- He wants you to live an amazing life. **John 10:10**
- ¹⁰ **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**
- Once we are saved Holy Spirit starts to work in us.
- To help us to live a sanctified or holy life – better life, God-blessed life.
- Doesn’t mean trouble-free or easy.
- Thessalonians living the God-blessed life – in persecution.
- And so, Paul includes hope for the future.
- **Future** – ‘for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ’.
- When life is perfect, we barely acknowledge hope.
- Hope is for when things are not going our way.
- Every Christian has a future that is glorious.
- We call this the ‘hope of heaven’.
- This world is not all there is, heaven is real and promised to those who God loves, who have loved and believed the truth.
- Paul closes chapter with prayer.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:15-17**
- Paul is talking to you – Jesus loved, loves, and will always love you.
- Write over your mirror, ‘Beloved by the Lord’ – every time you look, remind yourself.
- I don’t know about you, but it does something inside me when I know someone loves me.
- Gives me joy, peace, happiness – helps me to love them back.
- Almighty God Loves me, Jesus, Savior of the world loves me, the Holy Spirit lives in me and loves me.

- The more I understand and believe that, the more I am compelled out of love to love them back.
- And as that love grows, I can't help but love the people God loves.
- Brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus loves you.
- Open your heart and let that love in more and more.
- Let's do our best to love Him back.
- Next week we will finish our study through Thessalonians.
- The week after that we will begin a study in Revelation.
- I am looking forward to that.
- If you know anyone who might be interested in a study through Revelation, let them know how to get engaged.
- Let's end our time with a word of prayer.
- -
- God bless you all. Until next time, have a radical week with Jesus.
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- The main theme of both 1 and 2 Thessalonians is the return of Jesus Christ
- The Bible teaches us very clearly that when Jesus comes back, it will be sudden
- It cannot be predicted, but for Christians it will not be unexpected
- We expect Jesus to come back
- We don't know when, but we believe it will be soon
- But what if God gave us a warning?
- What if God told all Christians that Jesus was coming back at the end of church next Sunday?
- What would you do Monday? Go to work/school?
- What would you do this week?
- Would you come to church next Sunday?
- Your natural, automatic answers say a lot about your spiritual maturity
- It is something to think about
- -
- -
- -
- Paul had taught the Christians in Thessalonica about the soon coming of Jesus
- They believed Jesus was coming back soon
- But some of them responded in a way that proved they weren't understanding what that meant
- So Paul is going to address their response in this last chapter
- But first, he will ask them to do something for him
- **2 Thessalonians 3:1-2**
- This is interesting – the apostle Paul is asking for their prayers
- If Paul thinks having others pray for him is important, what should we be doing?
- We have a Prayer Team after every service – use it!
- If Paul needed prayer, so do you
- Paul's prayer was for two things – Word would spread quickly and be glorified

- And that those who opposed the spreading of the Word would be dealt with
- Paul believed in the power of the Word **Hebrews 4:12**
For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- Paul knew that unfaithful men would always seek to hinder God's Word
- But he was confident in God
- **2 Thessalonians 3:3-4**
- Even though wicked men will come against God's people and His work
- God will always be faithful – will do two things
- 'establish' = strengthen or make more firm
- As we walk in faith, God will strengthen us
- And will guard us from the evil one = Satan **Ephesians 6:12**
For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- As long as we walk in faith and stand in the victory that Christ Jesus won on the cross, we cannot be defeated
- **1 Thessalonians 3:5**
- Walking in faith and standing in Christ's victory depends upon us obeying the commands of Scripture
- Paul asks God to help them develop the right motivation for doing that
- 'love of God' – not clear if it means God's love for you, or your love for God, maybe means both
- 'patience of Christ' – Jesus is coming back for you
- Patience = steadfast endurance
- Our motivation for obeying God's Word ought because He loves me and I love Him and I know Jesus is coming back for me
- After words of encouragement, Paul gets into the matter at hand
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6**
- Some of the people of Thessalonica believed that Jesus was coming back soon

- So they quit working – why work if we are not going to be here tomorrow
- Paul refers to that attitude as ‘disorderly’ – soldier out of ranks
- ‘not according to tradition’ – Paul & friends showed them something different
- **2 Thessalonians 3:7-9**
- Paul had a right as an apostle to be supported by those he ministered to
- Instead, he chose to work (to point of exhaustion) so as not to be a burden financially upon this young church
- You should follow that example he says
- If Paul, who taught you that Jesus was coming soon, worked, so should you
- **2 Thessalonians 3:10**
- This is one of those widely abused Scriptures
- Paul not saying that if someone does not work, don’t feed them
- Saying, if someone is unwilling to work, don’t feed him
- These guys quit their jobs, expected the church to take care of them
- There are people that cannot work or cannot find work
- As the church we need to try to help them
- **2 Thessalonians 3:11-12**
- Instead of working, getting into other people’s business
- Becoming the Holy Spirit police – gossiping
- Paul tells them – get back to work – provide for yourself
- **2 Thessalonians 3:13**
- This verse is often misquoted – never stop doing good deeds
- ‘doing good’ = doing the right thing
- In context Paul just told them the wrong thing was to quit jobs
- Right thing was to work in quietness = doing good
- Some probably discouraged – working hard, feeding the busybodies
- Telling them, ‘You keep doing the right thing, no matter what’
- And the next thing falls under a ‘good thing’
- **2 Thessalonians 3:14-15**

- We are to watch out for people that call themselves Christians but don't obey God's Word
 - 'do not keep company with' – don't invite them over for dinner
 - Don't treat them like an enemy, but don't condone their sin
 - 'admonish' = let them know that they are in sin
 - Must be careful, not to sin ourselves in how we do it Matthew 7:3
- And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?**
- We live in a world where people all around us are doing the wrong things
 - Paul told the people of Thessalonica 'not to grow weary' = don't become discouraged, don't lose heart, don't give up
 - Takes three things to be able to do that
 - First – **Faith in God and His Word**
 - It can be hard to do the right thing when others around you are doing the wrong things
 - Especially when it looks like they are getting away with it or prospering
 - Might ask, is it worth it, Paul thought so **Galatians 6:9**
- And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.**
- In due time we will be rewarded for our faith
 - Second – **Obedience to God and His Will**
 - Some interpret verse 13 to mean that if they do good they are in God's will – maybe, maybe not
 - Question, who determines what 'good' is?
 - Three things you can do to know God's will
 - Pray – Bible – seek counsel
 - Third – **Love God and His People**
 - God is love – it His character, nature, it is who He is
 - And so to be like God, we need to be people of love
 - One of the best ways that you can love God is to love His church and His people
 - That is not feelings of love, but doings of love

- Doing the right thing is always the right thing to do
- Paul says, ‘do not grow weary’
- If you are growing weary, one of three reasons
- Not doing the right thing – what is the right thing to do?
- It is the right thing, but the wrong time – be patient
- It is the right thing, at the right time, but you are doing it the wrong way - learn to love
- Jesus is coming back soon, what do you want Him to find you doing when He comes back
- What is the ‘good thing’ you should be doing – start doing it
- Paul finishes the letter with his own hand
- **2 Thessalonians 3:16-18**
- Paul opened the letter with grace and peace and ends it with peace and grace
- As we grow in faith, learn to walk in obedience, and choose to love others we will know greater and greater peace and grace
- Jesus is coming back soon – let’s keep doing good!
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