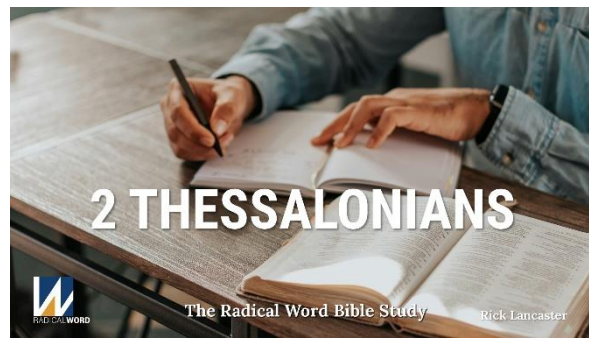




Verse-by-verse Bible Study

Teaching Notes

2 Thessalonians 3:1-17

Live streamed on September 11, 2025

@Calvary Chapel French Valley, Murrieta, California

Rick Lancaster

Teaching Notes

2 Thessalonians 3:1-17

Opening Comments

- **RECORD**
- Welcome to episode 11 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 episodes are now up on most podcasting platforms.
- 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 11, 2025.
- Today's Hebrew date is 18th of Elul, 5785
- -
- [coffee mug] Tahquitz Pines, Idylwild.
- This is where we did retreats for a number of years.

- God did some radical things up on top of the mountain.
 - -
 - Today is National Hot Cross Bun Day. Hot cross buns are traditional spiced sweet buns containing fruit, marked with a cross, and typically eaten on Good Friday. Although most strongly associated with the UK and other Commonwealth countries, their popularity has grown in the US in recent years.
 - -
 - [Look up this day in history]
 - September 11th, 2001 - World Trade Center and Pentagon attacked by terrorists
 - On this day in 2001, 19 militants associated with the terrorist group al-Qaeda hijacked four planes in the United States, crashing three into buildings (the fourth crashed in Pennsylvania) and killing some 3,000 people.
 - -
 - Yesterday, September 10th, 2025 may be one of those days that sticks in our memory.
 - An assassin took the life of Charlie Kirk, leaving his young wife and two young children without a husband and father.
 - We are left without one of the shining lights of truth in our culture.
 - He dared to speak truth to a generation that has believed and propagated lies about how to view this world. **John 3:19-21**
- ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.**
- He refused to stop speaking truth into the darkness and they killed him to shut him up.
 - Charlie is with Jesus now. Pray for his family for the comfort of the Holy Spirit and that they would be surrounded and be covered by the love of God through His people.
 - One of my prayers is that another, like Charlie, would rise up to take his place.
 - Better yet, a hundred like Charlie. Truth will go forth!

- -
- Okay, let's get into our study tonight.
- **Pray**

Teaching

- Tonight, we continue studying through 2 Thessalonians.
- Turn to **2 Thessalonians 3**.
- The chat is live and I welcome any thoughts or questions you might have.
- -
- 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 on 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.
- As a pastor, I appreciate what Paul requests of the young church in Thessalonica.
- Paul is a long way from them and there was not much they could do to help him with his ministry.
- But they could pray.
- Prayer is not something we should do when we can't do anything else.
- Prayer is what we should do before we do anything else.
- At the end of 1 Thessalonians Paul told them to pray without ceasing.
- Prayer is the lifeblood of a real relationship with the living God.
- Paul doesn't just ask them to pray; he tells them what they can pray for him.
- The first of three things Paul wants prayer for is that the word of the Lord would run.
- If you are reading the NKJV like I am, you will notice that the word *swiftly* is in italics.
- Italics are used in two ways in the NKJV.
- First to indicate a quote from somewhere else.
- The second way italics are used is when the translators insert a word into the text for clarity purposes.
- They do this because there are times when the English words do not adequately interpret the meaning of the original language.
- The original Greek word includes the idea of haste, so the NKJV translators included the word *swiftly*.
- The NASB renders that same Greek word as 'spread rapidly'.
- It is always a good practice to compare other translations to the one you are studying with.
- It can add clarity, or reveal things you may have missed in your translation.
- Paul's desire is that the message of Christ Jesus would spread rapidly.
- This world we are living in is a mess.
- Darkness appears to be winning.
- We should be praying just as Paul asked – Lord, help us spread your word quickly.

- This world needs Jesus. It needs God's Word. **Romans 10:17**

¹⁷ **So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

- Pray for this podcast.
- I believe God can use it to take the light of God's Word out into the darkness.
- The second thing Paul prayed for was that the Word of God would be glorified.

Glorify: praise, speak words of glory, honor, attribute a high status, glorify, attribute high rank.

- So, how does one go about glorifying the Word of the Lord, the Word of God.
 - Paul gives us a clue in the remainder of verse one, 'just as it is with you.'
 - The Thessalonians were living the message of the gospel.
 - When we walk in faith and obedience, we are glorifying the Word of the Lord.
 - But we should also not be ashamed of the Word of the Lord.
 - We should always be ready to share something from God's Word.
 - Even if you can't quote chapter and verse, you know something about the principle that applies in that circumstance, share it.
 - You don't have to convince them that it is true, you just need to tell them the truth.
 - It is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to convince them of the veracity of the word of the Lord.
 - We glorify God and His Word when we share it with others.
 - Paul wants more opportunities to share the word of the Lord and he asks the Thessalonians to pray for it.
 - The third thing Paul asked for prayer about was to be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men.
 - Paul knew personally the truth he wrote to Timothy. **2 Timothy 3:12**
- ¹² **Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**
- Paul knew persecution from unreasonable and wicked men was a part of desiring to live a godly life.
 - So, why was he praying to be delivered, or rescued, from that persecution.

- Because it was preventing him from spreading the word of the Lord.
- Paul endured everything the world and the devil threw at him, but his desire was to share the gospel.
- If Paul thinks having others pray for him is important, what should we be doing?
- If Paul needed prayer, so do you.
- What is God trying to do in your life?
- How is God trying to use to spread the word of the Lord?
- What might be keeping you from doing more to glorify the word of the Lord?
- Ask someone to pray for you.
- You can send prayer requests to us by email to prayer@calvaryfv.com.
- Paul believed in the power of the Word. **Hebrews 4:12**
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.
- Paul uses a phrase at the end of verse two that might give us a clue where the unreasonable and wicked men are coming from.
- 'not all have faith' – The faith Paul is referring to is faith in God.
- It would be odd if Paul said that about people in the world.
- None of them has faith in God.
- This likely refers to people in the church who are opposed to Paul's style of ministry or to the message he taught.
- There are examples of that opposition throughout the New Testament.
- We are not surprised when the world opposes our efforts to spread the word of the Lord.
- It can be very discouraging when it is coming from so-called Christians.
- But Paul 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 – He 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.
- How do I know ‘the evil one’ refers to the Devil, to Satan?
- First, there is a clue in the phrase itself.
- The word ‘the’ is a definite article.
- It is referring to a specific object.
- If it was referring to a more general evil one it would be ‘an evil one.’
- The second reason is because Jesus used this same phrase four times in the gospels, all of them referring to the Devil.
- The Lord’s model prayer is one example. **Luke 11:4**
⁴ **And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**
- If you are using a Bible software, it should allow you to search for phrases.
- I use Logos. They have a free version you can download at logos.com.
- Paul’s confidence was not in the Thessalonians themselves.
- His confidence was in the Holy Spirit in them to establish them and guard them from the evil one.
- Our strength and ability to remain faithful is not in us, it is in God, the Holy Spirit, in us.
- We are responsible for doing what the Holy Spirit leads us to do.
- Obedience is required for all Christ-followers, but even obedience is something God does inside us.
- When Paul says ‘we command you’ he is referring to the instructions they received from Paul.
- Paul is claiming a level of authority over them, but as it relates to their faith and obedience.
- The Bible teaches that God has a plan for the whole universe, including each of our individual lives. **Jeremiah 29:11**
¹¹ **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.**
- That promise is specifically for the nation of Israel, but being grafted into the family of God means it applies to us also.

- God made some promises to Israel that do not apply directly to the church, but many others do.
- God plan for our lives is good.
- God's plan is not limited to bringing us to heaven. **John 10:10**
¹⁰ **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**
- God's plan for our lives is good.
- The problem for us is that we will not find God's good without God helping us.
- Paul refers to how God does that in the next verse.
- **1 Thessalonians 3:5**
- God the Holy Spirit directs us to the good life Jesus promised us and died to give us.
- Paul gives two characteristics of that life; the love of God and the patience of Christ.
- 'love of God' – not clear if it means God's love for you, or your love for God, probably means both.
- The longer I am in the faith and seek to understand God through His Word, the more convinced I am that love is the answer to most of life's big questions.
- If we could learn to experience God's love in every part of our lives, we would be less likely to be moved by the various things that touch our lives.
- God loves me with an immeasurable love.
- Whatever comes into my life, whether good or bad in my eyes, God loves me.
- His love cannot change – He won't love me less if I don't respond well and He won't love me more if I respond perfectly.
- Good doesn't come into my life because God decided to love me today – He always loves me.
- When bad things come into my life it is not because God is mad at me.
- God's love for me is everything.
- But God's love is also in me. **Romans 5:5**
⁵ **Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

- Faith teaches not just to experience God's love but how to love God back.
 - One of the main ways we love God is by loving what and who He loves.
 - One of the reasons we study the Bible is so that we can figure out what and who God loves. **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.**
- I don't know about you but about seeing the video of Charlie Kirk being assassinated, I am having a hard time loving the world.
 - If there are people in the world who would do that to him, I'm not sure I want to love them.
 - That is my heart speaking.
 - My spirit tells me something different.
 - Things like that are challenging.
 - Jesus loved everyone.
 - He loved Judas Iscariot, even though He knew from the beginning that he would betray Him.
 - He loved the Jewish religious leaders who falsely accused Him.
 - He loved the guards who cursed, mocked, and beat Him.
 - He loved the Romans as they scourged Him and then crucified them.
 - He expressed that love in a profound way, when, as He was hanging from the cross dying for their sins, He asked the Father in heaven to forgive them.
 - I want that kind of love for people – all people, even the evil, terrible, wicked people.
 - I'm not there yet, my faith needs to keep growing.
 - One of the ways we grow our faith and express the love of God is with one another.
 - We practice loving others by loving other Christ-followers.
 - If we can't love other people who are trying to love God, how will we ever love the people who hate God and the people of God.
 - The world is thick with hate right now. It needs God's love, expressed through faithful men and women of God.

- The second thing Paul want God to lead the people of Thessalonica into is the ‘patience of Christ’.

Patience: steadfast endurance n. — the power to withstand hardship or stress; especially the inward fortitude necessary.

- Paul had taught them that Jesus was coming back.
- While they were waiting, trying to living godly lives, they were experiencing persecution from those in their community who hate the light of God and love the darkness of sin and wickedness.
- The Thessalonians were enduring persecution and seemed to be standing up under it.
- Patience is one of the ways we express our faith.
- It is easy to be a Christ-follower when life is good, the sun is out, the birds are chirping, and your bank account is in the black.
- Real faith stands the same way in the good and in the bad.
- Patience is standing firm in the storms of life, when the check engine lights of your life are blinking, when everything that could go wrong does.
- That’s when our faith is tested to determine of it is real or not.
- To determine if it is weak or strong.
- Jesus is going to come back for us, but we don’t know when.
- We can hope the world will get better while we wait – it might not. 2

Timothy 3:13-14

¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*...

- A growing faith is what helps us to persevere in the patience of Christ.
- It is possible to do more than just persevere; we can flourish in Christ.
- That is the overcoming faith that changes the world.
- Maybe not the whole world, but it might change the little bit of the world that your life touches.
- 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**
- 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**
- 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!
-