

2 Thessalonians 3: Do Not Grow Weary

March 22, 2015

Having thanked God for his work in the Thessalonian believers and addressed their concerns about the Day of the Lord, Paul confronts a problem in the church. He shows himself a model of spiritual diligence (3:1–5) as well as working hard physically (3:6–12), and he encourages the believers to do the same.

Believers ought to pursue obedience to Christ (3:1–5).

Pray for the advance of God's Word (3:1).

- Pray that the gospel would advance into places and lives where it is currently being rejected.
- Pray that the gospel would not just be heard, but received as God's Word (cf. 1 Thess 2:13) and obeyed (cf. 1:8).
- Reminder: our own salvation is the result of the gospel's advance and glorification.

Pray for the safety of God's messengers (3:2–3).

- Faithless men seek to thwart and destroy the gospel and its messengers (3:2).
- A faithful God strengthens and protects his gospel and his messengers (3:3).

Pray for the obedience of God's people (3:4–5).

- The goal of the gospel's advance is obedience to God's Word (3:4; cf. 2:15).
- The goal of the gospel's advance is God's love and Christlike perseverance (3:5).

Believers ought to pursue diligence as they wait for Christ (3:6–18).

Believers should recognize idleness as out of line with Christian virtue (3:6–11).

- The church must discipline those who refuse to work (3:6).
- A refusal to work does not follow the apostolic tradition (3:7–9).
- A refusal to work does not follow the apostolic command (3:10–11).

Believers should seek to meet their needs through hard work (3:12–13).

- Believers should take personal responsibility for their needs, working quietly (3:12).
- Believers should not grow weary pursuing diligence (3:13).

Believers should separate from those who refuse to obey Scriptural commands (3:14–15).

- The refusal to work (3:6–13) was just one example of disobedience to apostolic commands (3:14; cf. 3:6; 2:15).
- Believers must separate from other believers who persist in unrepentant disobedience.
- The goal of this separation is restoration and repentance (3:15).

Paul closes his epistle with a prayer for the God of peace to grant his peace to the Thessalonian believers as they followed the Lord (3:16). He signed his letter as he always did (3:17), and prayed for the grace of Jesus Christ on them (3:18).