

“2 Thessalonians 3—Part 1”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series about 1 and 2 Thessalonians. The title of the presentation was “2 Thessalonians 3—Part 1.

In the previous two presentations, I covered 2 Thessalonians 2 in two consecutive presentations. After reviewing the material in 2 Thessalonians 3, I decided to cover the material in two presentations instead of in one presentation.

Requested prayers

At the beginning of chapter 3, the apostle Paul requested prayers. Notice what the specific prayer requests were.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:1—Paul asked that the brethren pray that the Word of the Lord would be glorified.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:2—Paul asked that the brethren pray that Paul (and his traveling companions) would be delivered from unreasonable and wicked people.

Reminders about evil

In the Bible study on April 15, 2026 (written about for the weekend of April 18), I talked about some of the evil that Paul faced.

- Acts 15:41—After the conference in Jerusalem, Paul and Silas traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the brethren.
- Acts 16:9—A vision appeared to Paul saying: “Come over to Macedonia and help us”—Macedonia is where Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea were located.
- Acts 16:12—After a long journey, they arrived in Philippi.
- Acts 16:19—In Philippi, they were dragged before the authorities.
- Acts 16:22-23—In Philippi, they were beaten with rods and thrown into jail.
- Acts 17:1—After being released from jail, they traveled to Thessalonica.
- Acts 17:5—In Thessalonica, evil men gathered a mob against them.
- Acts 17:10—The brethren in Thessalonica were so concerned about Paul’s and Silas’s safety, that they sent them to Berea—at night.

- Acts 17:13—When the mob learned that the Word of God was preached by Paul in Berea, they went there and stirred up the crowds.
- Acts 17:14—The brethren in Berea were so concerned about Paul's safety, that they sent him (by sea) to Athens.

Guarded from the evil one

Back to 2 Thessalonians 3.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:3—Paul wrote: "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."

Notice words that the Son of God said about the evil one.

- Matthew 13:19—In Matthew's description about the parable of the sower, the Son of God is quoted as saying: "When anyone hears the Word of the kingdom (and does not understand it), then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside."
- Luke 8:12—In Luke's description of the parable of the sower, the Son of God is depicted as saying: "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear. Then the devil comes and takes away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."
- John 17:15—When John quoted the beautiful prayer said by the Son to the Father, notice what he wrote: "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."

Follow the instructions

Back to 2 Thessalonians 3.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:4—Paul expressed that they had confidence that the brethren would follow the instructions given to them.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:5—Paul reminded them that the Lord would direct their hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

Withdrawing from brothers

- 2 Thessalonians 3:6—At this point in the letter, Paul talked about withdrawing from brothers.
- Thessalonians 3:6 (and 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15), are the reason I chose to cover this chapter in two Bible studies (and in two articles) instead of one. I invite you to study those verses before you hear the next Bible study and before you read the next article.

At this point, let's focus on the instructions. Next week, we will consider those verses.

Instructions about working

In 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12, Paul gave them instructions about working. I like to describe the instructions as two main categories.

- First—Paul’s writing included comments about people getting paid to preach the gospel.
- Second—There were general instructions about being good workers.

Paid to preach

- 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9—Paul reminded the brethren in Thessalonica how he worked instead of taking the privilege of accepting money for preaching the gospel.

In the Bible study on April 22, 2026 (written about for the weekend of April 25), we talked about the same subject in 1 Thessalonians 2:9.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:9—Paul reminded the brethren that he (and others) worked jobs to serve them (although they received financial support at other cities).
- Acts 18:1—Paul went to Corinth for 18 months (verse 11).
- Acts 18:2—Aquila and Priscilla had the same occupation (tent makers) as Paul.
- 1 Corinthians 9:1-2—Didn’t Paul have the rights as other apostles?
- 1 Corinthians 9:4—Didn’t Paul have the right to eat and drink?
- 1 Corinthians 9:5—Didn’t Paul have the right to marry?
- 1 Corinthians 9:6—Didn’t Barnabas and Paul have the right to receive funds for preaching the gospel?

Good workers

Paul’s letter was also a general instruction about being a good worker.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:10—Paul reminded them of words he had previously said to them: “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”
- 2 Thessalonians 3:11—Some people were not working, but spent their time being busybodies.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:12—Paul exhorted people (using the name of our Savior) to be workers.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:13—Paul said: “Do not grow weary in doing good.”

One more study

As I mentioned earlier, we will conclude the series of 1 and 2 Thessalonians with next week’s Wednesday-night Bible study (June 17) and with next week’s article in “Among Friends”(June 20).

If you have time, consider the following verses.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:6
- 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15