

“2 Thessalonians 3—Part 3”

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By Dave Havir

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

Throughout most of this series, I have covered a chapter of the book in one presentation. In 2 Thessalonians 2, I covered it in two consecutive presentations. And I concluded the Wednesday-night series with three consecutive presentations about 2 Thessalonians 3.

- On June 10, we covered 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13.
- On June 17, we covered 2 Thessalonians 3:6 and 2 Thessalonians 3:14.
- On June 24, we covered 2 Thessalonians 3:15-18.

Quick reminder

Notice the two main verses from the previous Bible study.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:6—“We command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.”
- 2 Thessalonians 3:14—“If anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.”

There is a difference between a person being ashamed and other people trying to shame someone. Let’s spend a few minutes noticing the difference.

Being ashamed

It is good for people to learn from their negative actions—oftentimes occurring because people are finally ashamed of what they have done.

It is good for people to learn from their negative actions—which can actually nudge people toward repentance.

Shaming someone

But the consistent habit of shaming people is often rude, disrespectful and sin.

There is a huge difference in people correcting someone and meanly shaming someone.

- Parents are encouraged to correct their children, but shaming children can be extremely destructive.
- Employers have the right to correct their workers, but shaming a worker generally goes beyond protocol.

Instructive example

Would you like to see an example about improper shaming and proper shaming?

Let's look at John 8:3-9.

John 8:3-5 shows the scribes and Pharisees aggressively shaming a woman—and using that situation in an attempt to shame the Lord.

- They brought a sinful woman to Christ.
- They publicly and dramatically set her in front of Christ.
- They publicly and dramatically accused her.

Notice that the scribes and Pharisees were really seeking to shame the Lord.

- They quoted words of Moses at Christ. (Many people would say that they quoted words of Moses "to" Christ, but I deliberately said they quoted words of Moses "at" Christ.)
- They publicly demanded that Christ give a public response.

John 8:6-9 shows how the Lord shamed the rude accusers.

- John 8:6—Christ stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear them. What was He writing?
- John 8:7—Christ said: "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."
- John 8:8-9—Since the religious leaders went slinking away, we assume that Christ was writing about their sins. In my mind, He shamed them!

Therefore, I conclude that the perfect Christ revealed to us that there can be a time to shame people—especially if they are trying to shame someone else.

His actions remind me of the words of Deuteronomy 19:18-19.

Deuteronomy 19:18-19—"If a witness is a false witness (who has falsely testified against his brother), then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother."

2 Thessalonians 3:15

- This brings us to 2 Thessalonians 3:15—"Yet, do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."
- That verse should help put the "ashamed" comment into an important light.

- That verse should help put the shunning aspect into a clearer perspective.

Can you spot the approach of the devil?

- Genesis 3:1-6
- Matthew 4:1-11

Can you recognize Christ's loving approach?

- John 10:10-16—The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
- Matthew 9:10-13—The Son of God taught the concept: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice."
- Matthew 12:1-7—When the Son of God defended His disciples, He quoted the phrase: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice."

Hidden love

We can't see or hear the hidden love of powerful prayer.

- Genesis 18:23-33—Abraham negotiated with God.
- Exodus 32:10-13—Moses pleaded with the Lord.
- Luke 11:5-8—The Son of God taught people to offer persistent prayer.
- Luke 18:1-8—The Son of God again taught people to offer persistent prayer.

Open love

Can you recognize the examples of open love shown toward you?

- 1 Corinthians 7:21—Can you recognize people who are trying to free you from slavery?
- 1 Thessalonians 2:7—Can you recognize people who are like comforting mothers?
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11—Can you recognize people who are like comforting fathers?
- 2 Timothy 1:16-18—Can you recognize people who go out of their way to support you?

In conclusion

- 2 Thessalonians 3:16—"May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all."
- 2 Thessalonians 3:17—Paul reminded them how he signed his letters. (Remember that 2 Thessalonians 2:2 discussed letters "as if from us.")
- 2 Thessalonians 3:18—"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."