

2 Thessalonians 3.1-5

Ch. 2 - Great Problems facing the Believers - Lawless Man & Rebellion

2.11 those who are perishing “believe the lie”

2.12 those who are saved “love the truth”

PAUL LOOKS INTO THE FUTURE OF GOD’S PEOPLE -

1) Problems Now            2) Final Battle in the Future

WHAT IS THE HOPE of GOD’S PEOPLE? Answer - WORD OF GOD

1) BELIEVE the Truth 2.13-14 - chosen, called, sanctified, glorified

2) GUARD the Truth 2.15 - “stand firm and hold to the teachings”

3) LIVE the Truth 2.16-17 - “in every good deed and word”

4) PREACH the Truth 3.1-5

LOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS -

TRUE FAITH IS LIFE CHANGING / CHANGED LIFE IS SHARED

WE CANNOT SHARE WHAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE (hypocrite)

WE CAN SHARE BEST FROM WHAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED

3.1 PRAY FOR US - Paul’s deep sense of burden and need

1 Thess 5.25 - Paul ASKED FOR PRAYER - Sign of Humility - Open  
HE WAS PRAYING FOR THEM TOO - RELATIONSHIP / SUPPORT

SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR PRAYER ---

1) MESSAGE OF THE LORD - GREAT SUCCESS

1 Thess 1.8 “the word of the Lord” - RANG OUT

LORD'S MESSAGE - given to Paul - CAME FROM GOD  
we have no right to change it - add to it - or take away from it

MAY RUN AND BE GLORIFIED "spread rapidly and be honored"

Paul loved to use VIVID FIGURES OF SPEECH  
imagined an Olympic runner carrying the torch of honor

Psa 148.15 "He sends his command to earth, HIS WORD RUNS  
SWIFTLY"

Heb 4.12 "Word of God is living and active - sharper than a sword"

2 Tim 2.9 "God's word cannot be bound"

Acts 13.48 Paul preached in Pisidian Antioch - RESULT  
"When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the Word of the  
Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed."

WORD HAD RUN INTO THESSALONICA - God glorified in them!

PAUL WANTED WORD OF GOD TO RUN THRU ROMAN EMPIRE  
Thessalonica - Berea - Athens (intellectual capital) - Corinth (commercial  
capital) - on to Rome (administrative capital)  
STRATEGIC MINISTRY -CAREFUL PLAN- CENTERS OF  
INFLUENCE

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO REACH KZ? CENTRAL ASIA? WORLD?

HEART OF MESSENGER - God will be honored - in Church & world  
BOTH WORLD EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH NEEDED

John 17 - Jesus prays that Father will be GLORIFIED & He will be too

JOHN 17.25 "Oh Righteous Father, the world has not known you..."  
HIGHEST PURPOSE OF EVANGELISM - GLORY OF GOD

2) v. 2 "delivered from wicked and evil men"

GOSPEL IS LOVED BY SOME / HATED BY OTHERS

“smell of life and smell of death”

“not everyone has faith” - PROBABLY REFERENCE TO THE JEWS

Acts 18 - Paul writing from Corinth - Jews were attacking him

EVANGELISM IS DANGEROUS - people are angry with God & Word  
they cannot fight against God - fight against His servants

PRECIOUS GOSPEL OF GOD MEANS NOTHING TO SOME PEOPLE

v. 3 BUT THE LORD IS FAITHFUL

Paul does not emphasize the FAITHLESS / HE IS NOT WORRIED

HE IS CONFIDENT IN GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

“The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, NOT ONE OF HIS WORDS  
FELL TO THE GROUND” 1 Samuel 3.19

GOD TO JEREMIAH “I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled”

ISAIAH “My word will not return to me empty, accomplish my purpose”

BATTLE IS REAL - WE MUST PRAY AND PREACH

But God is Almighty and the Battle belongs to the Lord

v. 3 “He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one” / e.g. DEVIL

GOD WILL GUARD YOU FROM ALL THE ASSAULTS OF SATAN

v. 4 WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD FOR YOU!

Paul’s GREATEST CONCERN IS NOT FOR HIMSELF - He is Secure

HE WANTS THEM TO KNOW THAT ALL WILL BE WELL W/THEM

v. 5 May God give you love like God’s love

May God make you faithful like He is faithful

AMAZING STATEMENT - POWER OF HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS EXPRESSED IN THEIR OBEDIENCE

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT MISSION??

1) Mission is Spreading the Word of the Lord

PAUL KNEW HIS GOSPEL WAS GOD'S GOSPEL

1 Thess 1.5 "our gospel came with power and the Holy Spirit"

2.2 "we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition"

2.4 "men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel"

2.9 "we preached the gospel of God to you"

WORK OF PREACHER - Feed the sheep, not entertain the goats

WHEN SHEEP ARE WELL FED THEY ARE CONTENTED

will not leave church - will keep coming - will not fight and grumble

2) Mission is - People Receiving the Message of the Lord

3.1 "message of the Lord...honored"

3.2 evangelists "delivered from wicked and evil men"

FOUR GROUPS OF PEOPLE - prayers, preachers, receivers, rejecters

3) Mission is - BEYOND THE ABILITY OF MAN - need God's Power

THAT IS WHY PAUL ASKS FOR THEIR PRAYERS

Dr. Bob Cook "If you can explain what is going on, God is not doing it"

**BASIS OF OUR CONFIDENCE - A GOD WHO IS FAITHFUL**

4) Mission is the Command of God our Commanding Officer

3.4 “Continue to do what we COMMAND” 3.6,10,12 / 1 Thess 4.2

**JESUS IS CAPTAIN OF OUR SALVATION - we are His soldiers**

**DIFFICULT LIFE OF SEMINARY STUDENT - training for ministry  
WORK OF CHURCH IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT**

People ask me “Go shopping, go home, go here – ARE YOU SERIOUS?”

3.5 LEAD YOU IN GOD’S LOVE - Captain Loves us! CALL OF GRACE

3.3 COMMANDER IS FAITHFUL - He will win the battle