

2 Thessalonians 3.14-18

3.17 - AUTHENTIC letter of Paul / contra FORGERY - 2.2

ENCOURAGE BELIEVERS TO FAITHFULNESS & OBEDIENCE  
God loves them, Paul loves them as brothers, he is praying for them

PAUL'S LETTER to the Church EMPHASIZES- 2 groups of people

Ch. 1 - Believers who are persecuted / Unbelievers who are persecuting

Ch. 2 - those who follow lies of Lawless man / blinded by sin  
others who stand firm in the salvation and truth of Jesus

Ch. 3 - those who are lazy - those who work hard

IN EACH CASE - Paul praises the right and condemns the wrong

FINAL VERSES - What about these people? Groups? Problems?

1. What the Church Should Do / 2. Prayer - What God alone can do

1. PRAYER - Letter is filled with Prayers

- 1) REALIZES that ONLY GOD can GROW THE CHURCH
- 2) CONFIDENT that God will sanctify and transform HIS CHILDREN
- 3) Paul is NOT THERE - Greatest influence teaching and praying

v. 16 "Lord of Peace" - // 1 Thess 5.23 "God of Peace" - sanctifies

HERE FOCUS IS ON JESUS "Prince of Peace" - Isaiah 9.6

Ephes 2 Paul writes about Jesus "He is our Peace" - GOD'S SHALOM

PRAYS FOR THREE THINGS –

- 1) "the Lord GIVE YOU PEACE" v. 16a

TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE PEACE - hearts, homes, church, world

“at all times in every way” - CONTINUAL - NO MATTER WHAT!

PAUL PRAYS THAT - ALL OF THEM WILL LIVE IN GOD’S PEACE

2) “The Lord be with all of you” v. 16b

NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE GOD’S PEACE - ALSO HIS PRESENCE

Risen Jesus “I will be with you always - to the end of the age”

THE PEACE OF THE CHRISTIAN IS THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

“ALL OF YOU” - prayer for all believers, good & bad / NO DIVISION

3) v. 18 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you”

SAME ENDING TO THE 1<sup>st</sup> LETTER - ONE ADDITION “ALL”

DESIRE - all the believers live together in God’s Love / UNITY

2 Thess 1.2 “Grace and peace to you” - from Father God and Son Jesus

FOUNDATION OF OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE - God’s Grace & Peace

HOW CAN THIS GRACE AND PEACE BE SHARED??

3.1 “the Word of the Lord run and be honored” / in Church! in the World!

WE MUST PRAY THIS FOR CHURCH - God’s Peace, Presence, Grace

## 2. What the Church Should Do

EXAMPLE OF HOW GOD USES HIS WORD / LORD OF HIS PEOPLE

DECIDED to Preach - Thessalonians - MONTHS AGO / God Knew

PROBLEM OF THESS- Work or Lazy? / KECS - Drunkenness Disrespect

EXPELLED STUDENT FOR DRINKING -

Met month ago and questioned / DENIAL - LYING / Covered by Students

HONESTY - willing to help - Teen Challenge - REQUIRES - HONESTY

NOW NO MORE HELP - NO MORE OPPORTUNITY

1) NEED FOR DISCIPLINE in SERIOUS SITUATIONS

NOT EVERY PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH IS MAJOR

NOT EVERYTHING NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE ELDERS

Many things need to be dealt with by brothers and sisters in love and truth

DISCIPLINE - Serious, Regular breaking of Apostle's Command

3.4 "we command you" / 3.6 "we command you" / 3.12 "we command you"

3.14 "does not obey our instruction in this letter"

TESTIMONY OF GOSPEL WOULD SUFFER THROUGH LAZINESS

2) NATURE of the Discipline - SEPARATION

3.6 "keep away from the lazy ones"

3.14 "take special note of him. Do not associate with him"

WHY?? "in order that he may feel ashamed"

SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE - EVERYTHING IS FINE - NO PROBLEM

DIFFERENT DEGREES OF ISOLATION

Corinthians - do not even eat with them / do not SHARE LORD'S SUPPER

2 John - do not take him into your house or welcome him

IF EVERYTHING IS NORMAL - MESSAGE “no need for repentance”

v. 11 “some among you” / v. 12 “such people” / v. 13 “as for you”

TWO SEPARATE GROUPS - obedience & disobedient / lazy & workers

3) SPIRIT of Discipline- 15 “warn him as a brother” / BROTHERLY LOVE

v. 15 “do NOT regard him as an ENEMY” - SAINT FALLEN INTO SIN

PAUL IS CONCERNED THAT SOME WILL SHOW HATRED  
no excuse to show hatred or harsh spirit - no ground for pride or boasting

4) PURPOSE of Discipline - REPENTANCE & RESTORATION

v. 14 “shame” / v. 15 “brother” / WANT THEM TO COME BACK

BE RESTORED TO FORMER FELLOWSHIP AND RELATIONS

GOOD EXAMPLE WHERE BIBLE IS HIGHER THAN CULTURE  
easy for independent Americans / more difficult for united Kazakhs

5) RESPONSIBILITY for ADMINISTERING Discipline-Whole CHURCH

TEACHING NOT ADDRESSED TO ELDERS - all the members

v. 6 “we command you brothers” / v. 13 “and as for you brothers”

v. 14 “take special note of him” - ALL OF YOU DO THIS

WHY? - 1) Strength of Agreement 2) Need for Church Unity

NOT ONE GROUP SAYING “yes” / ANOTHER GROUP “no”

LEADERS MAY TAKE THE LEAD / CHURCH MUST FOLLOW

## GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT WITH HIDING DRUNK

- 1) NO Distinction - do you have same standard
- 2) No Holiness - world cannot see a separate church
- 3) No Blessing - All Israel lost battle at Ai - Achan hid goods from Jericho
- 4) No Repentance and Restoration - PERSON COMFORTABLE IN SIN

3.1 “the Word of the Lord run and be honored” / in Church! in the World!

WE MUST PRAY THIS FOR CHURCH - God’s Peace, Presence, Grace