

DECODING

I & II THESSALONIANS

by Bruce Woolard

2 Thessalonians 3

DON'T ALLOW YOUR FAITH TO LAPSE

A final word to the Thessalonians was to continue to pray that the Word of God would flow freely to those who need it. May the Lord also inspire you to continue in His work **V1** *“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you”*.

There are unreasonable people with wicked motives because not all have come to faith in Christ **V2** *“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you”*.

The Lord is faithful who will ensure that you **DO NOT LAPSE** in your commitment to honour the Lord in all that you do. May you be guarded from evil **V3** *“But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one”*.

The apostle commends these Thessalonians and expresses confidence in their resolve to do God's will **V4** *“And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you”*.

Decoding Thessalonians 1 & 2 Lesson 8 continued.

It is important that the heart (mind) is focussed on God's purpose for our life, we have to endure life's challenges in patience. You are instructed to withdraw and avoid contact with a brother or sister who habitually acts in an inappropriate way that brings disorder into the church and affects your testimony. As we have been an example of what it means to be orderly, follow our example and don't permit others to deter you from upholding your faith and witness **V5-7** *"Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. But 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. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you"*.

Take note that when we were with you we did not despise your hospitality and goodwill. We did not burden you with our needs. We did this not because we were not entitled to it because our position as those with authoritative gifts could very well demand it. We chose not to, so as to not burden you with expenses. However, by setting this example we asserted that if a person did not work they should not be entitled to be fed.

It's a shame that I've heard that some among you are so disruptive and disorderly that they refuse to earn their own living and depend on you to support them. This is unacceptable behaviour **V9-12** *"Not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread"*.

Decoding Thessalonians 1 & 2 Lesson 8 continued.

Despite this attitude of neglect you should not be weary in doing what is right and proper **V13**.

If anyone in your congregation refuses to abide by these principles, avoid them so that they will be ashamed of their conduct and repent. Not that you should treat him/her as an outcast or enemy but admonish them and point out that their conduct is both offensive and unbecoming as a believer:

V14-15 *“And 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. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother”.*



Decoding Thessalonians 1 & 2 Lesson 8 continued.

BENEDICTION AND CONCLUSION

As in all his letters to the churches he ends with the benediction of God's Grace—V16-18.

LESSONS TO FOLLOW

The lessons in Thessalonians are actions that we, as believers, would do well in practicing and living.

