

The Thessalonians Church

All Scripture is KJV: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

What does the 2 books of Thessalonians tell us? – it teaches on

1. Jesus' return, and his timing for his return? – (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
2. Then how Jesus will return, and in what way or manner?
 - ✚ So the book of 1 Thessalonians spoke about the coming of the Lord, which is the rapture of all believers at that point. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - ✚ It spoke on the issue of the second coming of Jesus.
 - ✚ It spoke of the day of the Lord and showed that the rapture and the day of the Lord are the same event.
1. Paul reminded us that people will come and try change this event and that we were not to believe them. They are the deceivers come to deceive you.
2. Paul said that Jesus himself is coming in the clouds and he uses the term “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”.
3. But still.....people will argue that this is not the coming.....even though he just got through saying that it is the coming. (That's because people have been brainwashed into believing the pretribulation rapture which is not found anywhere in the scriptures.) (show me one clear verse about the pre tribulation rapture – there is none.)
4. It is impossible to change the sequence of events taking place here into anything else, seeing that it is the very facts that Paul is describing to us as this is Jesus coming back for his believers.
5. To simply say that this is not the second coming even though the scripture here says it is – is to propagate heresy.
6. Also how can you make sense of verse 1 in 2 Thessalonians 2:1 where it says that we will be gathered together unto him.

Thessalonians 2 (King James Version (KJV))

1. Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

So if all the other chapters are speaking about the coming of the Lord, then why should Chapter 3 of 2 Thessalonians be any different, seeing that he is still on the same subject?

So let's begin in chapter 3.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

¹ Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

1. As a last point to ponder to the church Paul used the word finally. This word that Paul used to convey his lasting words to the church was meant for the church.
2. By this time Paul had informed the church exactly what was going to happen concerning the return of Jesus, and the peace that they should have about those that have already died in the Lord.

✚ We can also notice that these words were directed to the church and not just to any individuals.

✚ The word used by Paul was brethren, which means the saved in Jesus.

3. If ever you wanted to know if prayer is important to your every day walk with the Lord then look no further than the rest of this verse.
4. Paul is asking the church to pray for them as they depart from their company. And it's not just any prayer.
5. But a prayer to ask the Lord that the scriptures would be able to be have a **“free course”** to those that need the word of the Lord still to be preached to them.

✚ The reason was, that the Roman government and the Jews were quick to try and squash the Lords word about Jesus, and that the punishment in some circumstances could even mean that they would be put to death.

6. As Paul used the example of God's word having been preached to them, it was the word of God which was glorified in them, which means that they were saved by it, and through it. That's what is meant by the word being **“glorified”**.

- As the scripture says, that it is God's word which is all power full unto salvation.

Hebrews 4:11-12 ¹¹ **Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.** ¹² **For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

- Paul had told the church in 1 Thessalonians 5 to pray. In fact prayer is not what you do when you feel like it. Look what Paul told them.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 **Pray without ceasing.**

- Paul himself continued to always present those believers that he had been in contact with before the Lord day and night as we see from some of the scriptures where he spoke about them.

Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that **without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;**

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that **without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;**

2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

1. The reason why Paul asked for that prayer was because of the many hindrances that faced them on a daily basis.
2. It's the same for us today; if you think that you can get ahead on a daily basis without prayer you are much mistaken.

✚ If Paul required prayer, and noting the fact that he was faith full and a powerful servant of God, able to much for the Lord; yet he too asked daily for prayer from the brethren in the course of events that he faced daily.

❖ It just goes to show us that we too should be found in prayer as much as we see that Paul was found in prayer.

✚ But yet, there are many Christians who don't go to the Lord in prayer about anything.

✚ Instead they try and get ahead and make it on their own.

✚ How foolish, and how full of unbelief is that? Not to rely on prayer to our Lord to help us in a time of need.

- Folks, we need to remember that not all people are like us.
- Paul said it this way **“for all men have not faith”**.
- There are so many wicked people out there, that we definitely need the Lords guidance and help when we are treading in the world of wickedness.

✚ Remember that there are more wicked people out there than there are faithful.

✚ There are far more people out there who would rather do you evil than to do you good.

✚ So don't be foolish and “believe” every one you see. That goes also for “not all people who say that they are Christians are in fact Christian”.

✚ Like Paul said that.... **we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men.**

3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

1. In contrast to what Paul had just told the church that there are wicked people out there who would harm you....., he said in verse 3 and verse 4, that.....that if you are going to trust anyone..... Then trust the Lord.
2. It is the Lord who is faithful.
3. It is the Lord who shall establish you.
4. It is the Lord who will keep you from evil.

✚ In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus spoke of this very prayer, in which he taught the disciples how to pray.

Matthew 6: ⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

1. So in Matthew 6:13 Jesus said that when you pray you need to ask the Lord to keep you from all temptation and to ask him to deliver you from evil.
2. It's exactly what Paul said here in verse 3.
3. That's why Paul said pray for us. So that they would not be faced with evil. And that's why Paul prayed for the brethren that they too would not face evil.

✚ So you can see how important prayer is, and how important it is to actually ask the Lord for this protection.

⁵ And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

1. Again verse 5, is focusing in on the Lords return.
2. The Lord is to be central to all our thoughts.
3. And as we direct our heart towards the Lord, Paul told them to be patient whilst doing just that.
4. The "**and into the patient waiting for Christ.**" Is another reference to the return of Jesus.
5. All the time Paul is reassuring the church then, and the church now, that we should "wait patiently for Christ".

✚ Can you imagine for one minute if we never had the hope of Jesus ever returning again?

✚ How sad that would be? And that would dash our hope.

✚ But praise to the Lord he will return as he said he would in Acts 1:11.

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

✚ What Paul had told the Thessalonian church he also told the same thing to the Corinthian church?

1 Corinthians 1:6-8 ⁶ Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: ⁷ So that ye come behind in no gift; **waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:** ⁸ Who shall also confirm you unto the end, **that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

✚ What Paul had told the Thessalonian church he also told the same thing to the Philippian church as well?

Philippians 2:14-16 ¹⁴ Do all things without murmurings and disputings: **That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God,** without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; ¹⁶ Holding forth the

word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

- ✚ So as a believer in Jesus Christ all those will stand in the day of Jesus Christ blameless.
- ✚ This is what Paul told the church at Thessalonica that they would be able to stand in the day of the Lord. The return of Jesus Christ, that they would be found blameless.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be **preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- ✚ That's why as a believer you can wait patiently for the return of Jesus Christ.
- ✚ Because you will be found blameless.
- ✚ Unlike those who know not God, who will face the wrath of God on the Day of the Lord.

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

1. Some of the stumbling blocks that cause a Christian much strife is when a believer starts to get entangled again in the world.
2. This is often caused by and unbeliever enticing the believer back into the system of the world.
3. But when this happens for whatever reason, we are told by scripture that we should withdraw from that brother. The reason is that if we were to continue condoning that action of the person that has fallen, it will soon lead to our downfall as well, because we will become complacent to that life style as well and soon we will be drawn in unto it as well, and our testimony will be ruined.
4. So we are told to stay away from that brother.
5. But we are also told to try and restore a brother if that were to happen.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

- ✚ From verse 7 to verse 12, Paul is speaking about those that cause problems in the church.
- ✚ Evidently just as in 1Thessalonians 4:11 there were those who did not work, and wanted everyone else to support them. Despite Paul telling them to work.

1Thessalonians 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, **and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands**, as we commanded you;

- ✚ So Paul, clearly said if you don't work you don't eat. Because it is those people who have too much time on their hands when they not working they cause trouble with those who are working and trying to do what is right.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

1. Yet most of the church was not lazy. They worked at a real job, and they did what they could for the Lords word to increase.
2. And for that Paul praised them. That's why he said to them **But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.**
3. What Paul also meant was, the rest of you.....don't get like those who are lazy and don't want to work. Sometimes we become tired and worn out, and at those times we are vulnerable to just give up. But Paul said that they **be not weary in well doing.**
4. Because working for the Lord is hard work. But be faithful right to the end.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

1. So for those that ignore and obey not the word of God, we need to have no company with such a person, who mocks and discredits the Lord.
2. To obey does not just mean to ignore Gods word, it means more than that. It means that they are turning to immoral acts and entering the circle again of what the world does.

Galatians 3:1-3 **O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?** ² This only would I learn of you, **Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?** ³ Are ye so foolish? **having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?**

3. So there is evidence of people walking in the way of the Lord, then turning again unto the world.

15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

4. Yet we are to not count him as an enemy but encourage him to get right in the Lord.

5. The word “admonish” is the word to rebuke or warn. So we are to warn them as a brother that what they are doing is wrong.
6. And they whole time that we are reprimanding him as a brother, is with the sole intent to restore him to the right ways of the Lord. That he would repent from his evil ways (turn), and come back to the Lord.

✚ The evidence of this is 1 Corinthians 5. (Whole chapter).

16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

1. The Lord of peace is none other than Jesus Christ.
2. The God of peace is our Lord Jesus.

Romans 16:20 And **the God of peace** shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

✚ This verse is taken from Genesis 3:15.

✚ Speaking of Jesus crushing Satan’s head whilst Satan bruises Jesus’ heal.

1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and **peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And **the very God of peace** sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:20 **Now the God of peace,** that **brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,** that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant

2 John 1:3 Grace be with you, mercy, and **peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.**

✚ So both the Son and the Father bring us peace.

✚ Jesus said in John 14:27 to his disciples that he would leave them his peace.

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you, my peace** I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....