



Blessed Assurance

— A study in —
1st and 2nd Thessalonians

*“Now may the God of peace Himself
sanctify you completely; and may your whole
spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:23

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How to Use This Study Guide

Bible study is not just learning about God; it is about knowing God and growing in our relationship with Him. When you sit down to study, begin with prayer. Before reading the lesson and answering the questions, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to you. You may find it helpful to have a few study aids such as a dictionary, a concordance, and more than one translation of the Bible. You may also find the following online resources helpful:

BibleGateway.com BlueLetterBible.org WebstersDictionary1828.com

Note: The New King James Version (NKJV) was used for this Study Guide, with consideration of the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the Amplified Bible (AMP).

Each lesson begins with reading through a portion of Scripture. As you answer the questions, keep in mind that *there are no right or wrong answers*. If you do not understand something, or you cannot answer a question, bring it to your group for discussion. This is the beauty of the small group setting.

Near the end of the study questions, there is a "Growing Stronger" section. This is an important and personal part of the study. As you answer the questions in this section, reflect on how you can apply the lesson personally by asking the following questions: What does this mean for my life? Is there something I can start doing? Is there something I need to stop doing?

Each lesson ends with a "Final Thoughts" section. Consider using a journal to write your thoughts and insights as you answer the questions and reflect on the lesson you completed. Your journal is also a good place to write prayers to God in response to what He revealed to you in His Word.

*"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father,
who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,
comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work."
~ 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

Study notes for 1 Thessalonians Introduction

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1 Thessalonians Chapter 1... *A Vibrant Church*

The two main themes of Paul's letters to the Thessalonian church are how to live in order to please God and the return of Jesus Christ. He begins with thanksgiving for their witness and their ability to maintain a spirit of faith, love, and hope in the midst of affliction. The church is thriving because its focus is not on present circumstances but on the return of Christ.

Read 1 Thessalonians Chapter 1

Which verse stands out to you and why?

1. Describe what happened in Thessalonica according to Acts 17:1-9.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3 again

2. What is the "work of faith"? (John 6:29)
3. In what specific ways might you demonstrate a "labor of love"? (Hebrews 6:10)
4. Where does "patience of hope" come from? (Romans 15:4)

Read verses 4-10

5. List the ways the Thessalonians received salvation. (verse 5)

6. How is it possible to have joy while following the Lord in “much affliction”? (Romans 15:13)

Has your hope in Christ affected the way you respond to hard times? Explain your answer.

7. What impact and reputation did the Thessalonian church have?

8. What is the difference between idols and the God of the Bible? (verse 9, Psalm 135:15-17)

9. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Idol

How does one turn from idols and follow “the living and true God”?

"Whatever your heart clings to and trusts in, that is really your God."
~ Martin Luther

10. What have Christians been delivered from? (verse 10)

Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Wrath

Who is the wrath of God intended for? (Romans 1:18)

Growing Stronger...

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers."
(1 Thessalonians 1:2) Paul and his companions prayed frequently for the entire flock.
Using the following verses, what are you inspired to pray for yourself and others?

Matthew 6:12-13

John 17:20-21

Colossians 1:9-10

Final Thoughts...

"For the word of the Lord has resounded from you and has echoed [like thunder], not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place [the news of] your [great] faith in God has spread..." 1 Thessalonians 1:8 AMP

The Thessalonians were known for their faith, love, hope, and joy despite their suffering. Who has served as an example of what it means to follow Jesus in your life? How would your family, neighbors, and co-workers describe your faith? Spend a few minutes in prayer and reflection. Is there an idol you need to forsake? How are **you** demonstrating faith, love, hope, and joy as you follow Jesus?

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1 Thessalonians Chapter 2... *The Integrity of Paul's Ministry*

Paul's enemies were ruthless in their attempt to discredit him, and he longed to return to the church in Thessalonica. Through this letter, Paul reestablishes his relationship with the congregation by defending his own character and ministry and reassuring them of his fatherly love and concern for them.

Read 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-6 again

1. What gave Paul the courage to continue proclaiming the gospel even when he faced accusations and mistreatment?

How can you proclaim the gospel during difficult times?

Psalm 31:24

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

2. What do the following verses say about being "entrusted with the gospel"?

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

2 Timothy 1:14 AMP

3. What evidence did Paul present to refute the slander of his opponents? (verses 5-6)

Read verses 7-12

4. How does Paul describe his relationship with the Thessalonians?

Why did he take this approach? (verse 12)

5. In light of Paul's caring relationship with the Thessalonians, how are you to treat others?

Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 24:17

Ephesians 4:32

Philippians 2:4

Read verses 13-20

6. What did Paul "thank God without ceasing" for?

Why is the distinction between "the word of men" and "the word of God" important?

7. "...the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe." What is "the word of God" at work doing?

How is it working in **you**?

8. Describe how the Thessalonians "became imitators of the churches of God".

In what ways does God's Word help you endure persecution?

Psalms 31:15

John 16:33

2 Corinthians 12:10

1 Peter 4:12-14

9. Regarding the Thessalonians, what was Paul's "hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing"?

Growing Stronger...

Paul took every opportunity to show the Thessalonians that God wanted them to reflect His glory and had called them "into His own kingdom and glory." Paul not only used his words, but through his actions became a living example. How do the following verses instruct you to live out your Christian life?

Proverbs 31:26

Matthew 22:37-39

John 13:34

1 Corinthians 8:9

1 Peter 2:21

What aspect of the Christian life do you demonstrate to those around you?

"Integrity characterizes the entire person, not just part of him. He is righteous and honest through and through. He is not only that inside, but also in outer actions."

~ R. Kent Hughes

Final Thoughts....

"We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For He called you to share in His Kingdom and glory."

1 Thessalonians 2:12 NLT

Spend some time this week meditating on your glorious eternal future with God. Then examine your present lifestyle. Are there any changes you are motivated to make in view of your eternal destiny? Write them out and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to change.

Study notes for 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3... *Enduring Faith*

Paul's separation from the Thessalonians seemed to intensify his concern for them. He knew they would also "suffer tribulation" so he sent Timothy to encourage them in their faith. In Paul's prayer for the church, he did not pray for an end to trouble or persecution. Instead, he prayed for strength to "stand fast" and endure.

Read 1 Thessalonians Chapter 3

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-5 again

1. How does Paul describe Timothy?

Why would it be important for them to know these things about Timothy?

2. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Establish

Encourage

Endure

How have other believers helped to "establish" you in your faith?

How have other believers "encouraged you concerning your faith"?

3. Summarize Paul's concern for the church.

How are his concerns relevant to **your** life? (2 Timothy 3:12, John 16:33)

4. What can a strengthened faith prevent? (verse 3)

What can it not prevent? (verse 4)

*"To learn strong faith is to endure great trials.
I have learned my faith by standing firm amid severe testing."
~ George Mueller*

Read verses 6-13

5. What news did Timothy bring Paul concerning the Thessalonians?

Describe Paul's reaction.

How have you felt when you have heard good news about another's faith?

6. What did Paul pray would happen in the relationships among the Thessalonians?
(verses 12-13)

7. What do you learn about prayer from Paul's example?

Who can you pray for this way?

8. Are you, like Paul, able to encourage others while suffering affliction? Explain your answer. (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

Growing Stronger...

"...because now we really live [in spite of everything], if you stand firm in the Lord."
(1 Thessalonians 3:8 AMP) Paul was encouraged by the enduring faith of the Thessalonians.
Using the following verses, describe how you can "stand firm in the Lord."

Ephesians 6:14

Ephesians 6:15

Ephesians 6:16

Ephesians 6:17

Ephesians 6:18

Final Thoughts...

"Therefore, we speak of you with pride among the churches of God for your steadfastness [your unflinching endurance, and patience] and your firm faith in the midst of all the persecution and [crushing] distress which you endure." 2 Thessalonians 1:4 AMP

Endurance was the hallmark of Paul's faith and something he always encouraged in other believers. What about you? Are you fighting the good fight? Are you encouraging others to contend for the faith? Is it your desire to obey and proclaim the truth, no matter the cost? Record your responses in your journal.

Study notes for 1 Thessalonians Chapter 3

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12... *Living to Please God*

Paul was thankful that the Thessalonian Christians had been living out their faith; yet he encouraged them to “abound more and more” in purity, holiness, brotherly love, and diligence...a walk that pleases God.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-8 again

1. What is the purpose of your walk? (verse 1, Colossians 1:10)

2. What is God’s will regarding the believer’s use of their body?

3. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Sanctification

4. How are Christians to use their body according to the following verses?
Romans 6:19 NASB

Romans 12:1

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

5. How can we resist sexual temptations?
1 Corinthians 10:13

James 4:7

6. How is the Lord described in verse 6?

What does this mean? (2 Thessalonians 1:8)

7. Who are you rejecting if you reject a life of personal holiness?

What do you gain when you choose not to reject Him?

Read verses 9-12

8. What is “brotherly love”?

John 13:35

Romans 12:10

1 Peter 3:8

How can you better love other believers?

9. What are some reasons you should “aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands”? (verse 12, 1 Peter 2:12)

How can **you** live more quietly?

What are some consequences of not minding “your own business”? (Proverbs 17:9, Proverbs 26:20)

10. What kind of example are you to “those who are outside”?

Growing Stronger...

God makes it possible to live a life that pleases Him by the power of His Spirit who lives in our hearts. Pleasing God is a matter of living according to His precepts and commandments and doing so in love. Read the following passages and record what they reveal to you.

Romans 14:17-18

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Ephesians 5:8-10

Colossians 1:9-12

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

~ John Piper

Final Thoughts...

“...that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.” 1 Thessalonians 4:11

The Christian life needs balance. We are to work, but we should not be too busy. We can have ambition, but it should be the right ambition. We are to help and encourage others, but we should not be a busybody. Does your life have the right balance? Are you too busy? Are you leading a quiet life? Are you attending to your own business? Are you ambitious for the right things? Prayerfully consider what changes you need to make and ask the Lord to help you lead a quiet, balanced life for His glory.

Study notes for 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18... *Hope and Comfort*

The Thessalonian believers expected Christ's return at any moment, but some of them had already "fallen asleep". They wondered what had happened to the Christians who died before "the trumpet call of God"; did they miss His return? This doubt caused them to grieve. Paul answered their questions about the Rapture in order to give them hope and comfort.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 13-14 again

1. What does the phrase, "fallen asleep", refer to? (John 11:11-13)
2. What is the hope that allows Christians to grieve differently than those "who have no hope"? (Daniel 12:2, John 11:25)
3. Why is it essential to "believe that Jesus died and rose again"? (1 Corinthians 15:17)
4. Summarize what happens to the spirit of believers when they have "fallen asleep".
2 Corinthians 5:8

Philippians 1:21-23

Read verses 15-18

5. Describe the assurance you have knowing that this is "the word of the Lord".

6. What three sounds will initiate the Rapture?

7. Comment on the promises made in the following verses:

Matthew 24:31

John 14:1-3

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

1 Thessalonians 4:17

8. Who will ascend first "with the trumpet of God"?

Who will ascend next?

"I do not wait for the undertaker, but for the Uptaker."

~ Corrie ten Boom

9. What command was given after “therefore” in verse 18?

How are “these words” a comfort?

Growing Stronger...

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord...” (1 Thessalonians 4:15) As we anticipate meeting “the Lord in the air”, we are to remain faithful to the gospel and the call the Lord has given us. Prayerfully consider the following verses and record some of the ways you can accomplish this.

Matthew 28:18-20

Ephesians 4:1-3

Hebrews 10:24-25

James 5:7-9

1 Peter 5:8

Final Thoughts...

“Now we do not want you to be uninformed, believers, about those who are asleep [in death], so that you will not grieve [for them] as the others do who have no hope [beyond this present life].” 1 Thessalonians 4:13 AMP

It is important to understand that Paul is not saying Christians do not feel pain or sorrow. Jesus Himself felt grief and shed tears at the tomb of His friend Lazarus. Because Christians love deeply, they grieve deeply – but differently. We have hope beyond this present life. Is there someone you know who has no hope beyond this life? Perhaps they are in the despair, depression, or stoic fatalism that often characterize a person without hope. Prayerfully consider reaching out with the reason for the hope you have, which is “Christ in you, the hope of glory”! (Colossians 1:27)

Study notes for 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11... *The Day of the Lord*

The previous portion of Paul's letter spoke of the joyful hope of the Rapture. This portion contains a solemn warning of "the Day of the Lord", a prophecy that is discussed often in both the Old and New Testaments. The term, "thief in the night", is not used to refer to the Rapture, but to the coming judgment and wrath of God upon the unrighteous. Christians are not subject to God's wrath and indignation but are chosen for salvation.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-5 again

1. How is the "day of the Lord" described in the following verses?

Isaiah 13:6-9

Joel 3:14-16

2 Peter 3:10

2. What did Jesus say your mind-set should be as you wait for His return? (Luke 21:36)

3. In what ways are unbelievers and believers different according to 1 Thessalonians 5:3-5?

4. Why are Christians children of light and not in darkness? (Colossians 1:13-14)

Read verses 6-11

5. What are you exhorted to do? (verse 6, Mark 13:35-37)

*"When Jesus returns is not as important
as the fact that we are ready for Him when He does return."
~ A.W. Tozer*

6. Read the following verses and give examples of ways you can put on faith, love, and hope as you wait for Christ's return.

Faith - Deuteronomy 31:6

Love - 1 John 5:2

Hope - 1 Peter 1:13

7. Fill in the blanks: "For God did not _____ us to _____, but to obtain _____ our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV)

According to this verse, what are you saved from?

Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

Salvation

8. How can you present the gospel to unbelievers who will suffer the wrath of God when Jesus Christ returns unless they receive the salvation He has made possible for all?

9. Paul's hope was that his readers would be comforted by his words about the Rapture and the Day of the Lord. Are you? Why or why not?

Growing Stronger...

"Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11) Although Christians will escape the wrath that is coming, there are still times of difficulty. The Church may see increasing persecution and suffering as the days grow darker with evil. Investigate the following verses and write down ways you can comfort and strengthen others.

Proverbs 12:18

Romans 12:18

Galatians 5:14

Ephesians 4:29

Colossians 3:12-15

Final Thoughts...

"So then let us not sleep [in spiritual indifference] as the rest [of the world does], but let us keep wide awake [alert and cautious] and let us be sober [self-controlled, calm, and wise]." 1 Thessalonians 5:6 AMP

God has chosen not to reveal the specific time of end-time events so that all believers will live in constant anticipation of them. What are some specific things you can do today to stay spiritually awake and self-controlled? How can you better prepare for the imminent return of the Lord? Record your responses in your journal.

Study notes for 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28... *A Healthy Christian Community*

Paul ends this letter by offering instructions for a healthy Christian community. He explains the importance of loving and respecting leaders, faithfully ministering to the flock, paying attention to the Scriptures, and desiring to please God by living holy lives.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 12-15 again

1. Why should you show love and respect to Christian leaders and workers?

List some ways you can show your appreciation. (1 Timothy 2:1-2, Hebrews 13:17)

2. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14 in the Amplified Bible (AMP). Who is Paul addressing?

List the four instructions Paul gave them.

3. Explain the meaning of, "see that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all." (verse 15, Luke 23:34, 1 Peter 3:9)

Why is it essential for us not to seek revenge? (Romans 12:19)

*"To tolerate a wrong attitude toward another person
causes you to follow the spirit of the devil, no matter how saintly you are."*

~ Oswald Chambers

Read verses 16-28

4. What is God's will for you? (verses 16-18)

5. What do the following verses say about rejoicing?
Deuteronomy 12:7

Romans 5:11

1 Thessalonians 5:16

6. How can you "pray without ceasing"? (Romans 12:12, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

7. What does, "in everything give thanks," mean to you?

8. What gets in the way of **you** having a joyful attitude, praying regularly, and expressing gratitude to God for His blessings?

9. Using a dictionary or online source, such as webstersdictionary1828.com, define:
Quench

What is quenching the Spirit an indication of? (Isaiah 63:10)

10. How can you “test all things”? (1 John 4:1-3)

11. List a few ways that **you** “abstain from every form of evil”. (verse 22)

Growing Stronger...

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24) To be sanctified is to be “set apart.” Synonyms for *sanctified* are *holy*, *consecrated*, and *hallowed*. Those who are born again are sanctified and part of God’s family; reserved for God’s use. It means that God has been at work in our lives and loves us too much to let us stay the same. Consider the following verses and record what they reveal to you about sanctification.

Psalms 4:3

1 Corinthians 6:19

2 Timothy 2:20-22

Hebrews 10:10

Final Thoughts....

“Rejoice always.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Our feelings and circumstances should never stop us from rejoicing, praying, giving thanks, showing respect, or acting kindly. When we adapt to God’s way of thinking, we can even rejoice during trials and suffering. Jesus showed us that suffering comes before glory. His suffering and resurrection secured a joyous future for all who have been redeemed. In Christ, we **can** rejoice always. What are you rejoicing for now?

Study notes for 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Study notes for 2 Thessalonians Introduction

2 Thessalonians Chapter 1... *Worthy of God's Calling*

Paul began this letter by thanking and praising God for the Thessalonians' growing faith. As persecution intensified, Paul encouraged them to endure and challenged them to do the good work of faith worthy of God's calling.

Read 2 Thessalonians Chapter 1

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-4 again

1. Why was Paul thanking God for the Thessalonian believers?

What evidence do you have that **your** faith is increasing?

2. In what tangible ways do you love others?

How can you improve?

3. Why did Paul brag about the Thessalonian believers to other churches?

When you face affliction, do you endure or do you complain and give up? Explain your answer.

*"Our main calling is to live in fellowship with Christ
and to labor with Him in extending His kingdom."*

~ Anonymous

Read verses 5-10

4. What will happen when Jesus is revealed from heaven? (verses 7-8)

What event does this refer to? (Revelation 19:11-16)

How does knowing that there is “rest” coming help you?

5. What is the punishment for those “who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”? (verse 9)

Does knowing this reassure you or cause you anxiety/concern? Why?

6. When you suffer because of your allegiance to Christ, what will enable you to stand strong?

Read verses 11-12

7. According to the following verses, how can you be worthy of your calling in Christ?

Galatians 5:16

Ephesians 4:1-3

Colossians 1:10

1 Peter 2:20-21

8. How will “the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” be glorified in **you**? (verse 12, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

Growing Stronger...

Just as the righteous judgment of God works to perfect believers, so it works to repay the wicked. Retribution is to be exercised by God, not man. Read the following verses and record what you learn about vengeance.

Deuteronomy 32:35

Romans 12:19–21

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Revelation 19:2

Final Thoughts....

The day of reward and punishment is coming. Some will be among the glorified at Jesus’ appearing, others will suffer the punishment of God because of unbelief and disobedience. To be ready, we must live worthy of our calling. Prayerfully consider what you can tell your unsaved family and friends this week that will drive home the importance of knowing God and obeying the gospel.

Study notes for 2 Thessalonians Chapter 1

2 Thessalonians Chapter 2 ... *Stand Fast*

The Thessalonians had lost their hope and joy through confusion about end times; they had been led to believe that they were in the Day of the Lord. Paul assured them they were not in the tribulation because the Antichrist had not appeared. Like the Thessalonians, we are to stand fast and not be troubled or deceived but remember we are called to the truth of the gospel.

Read 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-4 again

1. What does "our gathering together to Him" refer to? (Matthew 24:31, 1 Corinthians 15:52-53)

2. What effect did the deception have on the Thessalonians? (verse 2)

What effect does the media, rumors, and sensationalism have on you?

What is the antidote? (Isaiah 26:3, Philippians 4:6-8)

3. Before the Day of the Lord comes, what events must happen? (verse 3, 1 Timothy 4:1)

4. Using the following verses, describe the "man of sin":

Isaiah 14:12-14

Daniel 8:25

2 Thessalonians 2:4

Revelation 13:5

Read verses 5-12

5. As a Christian, who dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

So then, after the rapture, what is one reason “the lawless one” will no longer be restrained?

How will “the lawless one” be destroyed?

6. Why will people “perish” during the final judgment?
7. Why are the unrighteous susceptible to the deception that is coming? (verses 10-12)
8. What is the mindset that blinds people to the consequences of their actions? (verse 12, Romans 1:28-32)

Read verses 13-17

9. What is the Holy Spirit’s part in your salvation? (verse 13-14)

What will you obtain? (verse 14, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

10. What did Paul pray the Lord would do for the Thessalonians who were facing serious trouble? (verse 17)

Write a prayer asking the Lord to do the same for you.

Growing Stronger...

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle." (2 Thessalonians 2:15) In the midst of suffering, Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to "stand fast" no matter what. Consider the following verses and write down ways **you** can stand fast in your faith.

Joshua 1:8-9

Psalms 1:1-3

Ephesians 6:11-13

Philippians 1:27

2 Timothy 2:19

James 4:7

"The enemy attacks our soul with intimidation. It is not defeated through psychology or positive thinking. Our weapon against intimidation is the sword of the Spirit, standing firm on God's Word."

~ John Bevere

Final Thoughts...

"They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:10 NIV

Who comes to mind when you read these words? Write their names in your journal and pray for them. Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to lovingly persuade them to turn to God and embrace the truth of the gospel.

Study notes for 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2

2 Thessalonians Chapter 3... *Words of Encouragement*

Paul closed this letter by reminding the believers of their shared faith in Jesus Christ and called upon them to avoid idle living. In Paul's final benediction, we find the key to living in the days prior to Christ's return: rest in the grace and peace of God. May this be your experience as you serve the Lord and wait for His glorious appearing!

Read 2 Thessalonians Chapter 3

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-5 again

1. What did Paul ask prayer for in verses 1-2?
2. List some ways the Lord is faithful. (verse 3, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 1:6)
3. What did Paul ask the Lord to do for the believers? (2 Thessalonians 3:5)

In your own words, describe the "patience of Christ". (2 Peter 3:9)

Read verses 6-15

4. What did Paul command the Thessalonian believers to do?

In whose name were they commanded to do this?

Why must you remove yourself from the "disorderly"? (1 Corinthians 15:33)

5. What example did Paul set while he was with them? (verses 7-9)

6. What had Paul commanded in verse 10?

Since this command does not negate the need for hospitality or generosity, what does it mean? (Galatians 6:10)

7. What do the following verses teach you about being a busybody:

1 Timothy 5:13

1 Peter 4:15

What did Paul command and exhort such busybodies to do? (2 Thessalonians 3:12)

"The most beneficial context in which men can encourage one another to be everything they can be in God is always a non-judgmental environment of unconditional love, forgiveness, and encouragement." ~ Tom Eisenman

Read verses 16-18

8. What did Paul pray for on behalf of the Thessalonians?

Where does this peace come from? (John 14:26-27)

9. What served as a sign of Paul's authorship of this letter?

Growing Stronger...

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (2 Thessalonians 3:16,18) Paul's final benediction to his beloved Thessalonians was a blessing of grace and peace. What do the following verses reveal to you about God's grace and peace?

Grace

Romans 3:23-24

Titus 2:11-12

Peace

Philippians 4:6-7

1 Thessalonians 5:23

What would it look like for **you** to experience God's "peace always in every way"?

How can this be a witness to people you encounter?

Final Thoughts...

"Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: 'Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.' Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives." 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11a NLT

Our culture's work ethic has eroded, but the biblical work ethic remains constant. When Christians diligently pursue the work to which God has called them, God is honored. Neither the world nor the Church owes a living to those too lazy to work. Still, the Bible says that individual believers and the Church have a responsibility to those who are facing real need. Prayerfully investigate ways to help fill that need. Is there a public agency that can help? Is there a job fair or online resource you can refer them to? Let them know you are praying for them and then encourage them to persevere.

[illegible]

~ Friends, Prayer Requests... ~

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

- 2 Thessalonians 3:18