

2 Thessalonians

Lesson #9, Chapter 3:1-15

1. What does Paul want the church to pray for him (verse 1)?
2. What real life example does he have in mind (verse 1)? How did the Thessalonians respond to the Word of God? See 1 Thess. 1:6-10 and 2:13.
3. What else does Paul desire them to pray for? Why (verse 2)?
4. Paul shifts from prayer requests for himself to encouraging the Thessalonians. What is God faithful to do for them (verse 3)?
5. In verse 4 Paul refers to the authority the elders have over the sheep in their flock. How did the Thessalonians respond to the commands of Scripture?
6. How do you respond to the teaching and preaching of God's word? Do your pastors have confidence in the Lord concerning you that you would apply the Scriptures to your life?
7. What are some ways your pastors would know that you are applying what they teach to your life?

8. Paul often prays that believers would know the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ. Why is that?

9. Read through verses 6-15. What problem is Paul addressing in this passage?

10. What does Paul command the brethren in verse 6? Notice how quickly they have an opportunity to apply the encouragement of verse 4.

11. What two qualities characterize the one they are to stay away from (verse 6)?

12. In contrast to the unruly brother, what example did Paul set for them to follow (verses 7-9)?

13. What previous teaching did Paul give the Thessalonians (verse 10)?

14. What does he hear about the church (verse 11)?

15. What command does Paul have for the offenders and for the faithful in verses 12-15?

16. See 1 Thess. 4:11-12. Notice how the seed of disobedience blossomed into a tree that needed to be rooted out. What does that teach you about being faithful to deal with issues early on in your own life or in a fellow brother's life?

17. What does Paul mean when he says, *do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother* (verse 15)?

18. In the midst of this exhortation to work Paul encourages the Thessalonians not to grow weary of doing good. Look back at verses 6-15. What things were asked of them that they might get weary of doing?

19. What is the purpose of any kind of discipline within the body of Christ? See Matt. 18:15; 1 Cor. 5:6-13; Gal. 6:1; 1 Tim. 5:20.

20. This passage reveals the emphasis God places upon hard work. He is opposed to lazy, sluggardly attitudes and actions. Are there any areas in your life in which you need to overcome laziness, slothful attitudes, or dependence upon others to do work you need to do?

Prov. 6:6 Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise.

Prov. 12:27 A lazy man does not roast his prey,
but the precious possession of a man is diligence.

Prov. 31:13 She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight.