



Second Thessalonians - 3 chapters

Title:

The Second Epistle to the Thessalonians – because it is the second of Paul’s two letters written to the church in Thessalonica.

Author:

Written by Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul was a strict Pharisee in Jerusalem until he had a revelation of Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul spent the rest of his life as a missionary proclaiming Jesus to Gentiles around the Mediterranean. Paul wrote 13 of the Books of the New Testament.

Occasion and Purpose:

This book was probably written just a few months after 1 Thessalonians. Someone delivered the first letter, and likely then reported to Paul that the church was struggling with two issues: 1) Someone has told them – they mistakenly think from Paul – that the Day of the Lord had already come, and 2) a small issue addressed in the first book – the “unruly idle” has grown into a major problem. So Paul writes to address these two problems.

Themes:

1. **Day of the Lord** – Paul corrects their mistaken ideas with true teaching. The Day of the Lord will be a time of vindication for God’s people and punishment for their persecutors. The Day has not yet come, and so the Thessalonians should not be anxious that they had missed something. The Day will be preceded by the revelation of an individual characterized by lawlessness, who will oppose God. But the “man of lawlessness” will not succeed, even though convincing. God will punish him.
2. **Traditions** – Hold on to true traditions faithfully. Here Paul uses the word “traditions” to refer to what we would call “doctrines.” That is the teaching and truth about Jesus that has been passed down from the first witnesses. We should believe, hold on to, and live in obedience to these true traditions.
3. **Work Ethic** – The Christian church has no place for idlers who live off the generosity of others. These people should get a job to support themselves, but also to contribute to society. The church should not accept this kind of behavior, even less should they empower it.

Summary:

Paul is thankful the church is standing firm and encourages them that God knows their struggles and will punish those persecuting them. Re: The Day of the Lord – The teaching, which said it already happened, was not from Paul. The Day of the Lord has not come! There are some preliminary things that must happen before the Day of the Lord (which have not yet happened). Paul is thankful that the church shows evidence of salvation and encourages them in their sanctification. Re: The Unruly Idle – They should get to work and earn a living. The church should not tolerate their behavior.

Organization:

1:1-12 Introduction	
1:1-2	Salutation
1:3-12	Thanksgiving and Prayer in light of their suffering
2:1-12 Day of the Lord	
2:1-2	Don't be discouraged by false idea that the Day has come
2:3-4	The "man of lawlessness" must come first
2:5-7	He is currently being held back
2:8	The punishment of the "man of lawlessness"
2:9-12	The coming of the "man of lawlessness"
2:13-17 Thanksgiving and Encouragement	
2:13	Thanksgiving
2:13-14	Reason
2:15	Implication/Response
2:16-17	Prayer
3:1-5 Regarding Prayer	
	Pray for Us
	Content of the Prayer
	Confidence in the Lord
3:6-15 The Unruly Idle	
3:6-12	Stay separate from the unruly idle
3:13-15	Take note of them so as not to associate with them
3:16-18 Conclusion	
3:16	Peace wish/prayer
3:17	Autograph/greeting
3:18	Blessing

Key Verses:

1:3-8, 2:1-2, 2:13-15, 3:6, 10-12, 3:14-15