

2 Thessalonians 3 New American Standard Bible

Request for Prayer

Finally, brothers *and sisters*, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it was* also with you; ² and that we will be rescued from troublesome and evil people; for not all have the faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing, and will do, what we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the perseverance of Christ.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers *and sisters*, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother *or sister* who leads a disorderly life and not *one* in accordance with the tradition which you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined way among you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; ⁹ not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a role model for you, so that you would follow our example. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. ¹² Now we command and exhort such persons in the Lord Jesus Christ to work peacefully and eat their own bread. ¹³ But as for you, brothers *and sisters*, do not grow weary of doing good.

¹⁴ If anyone does not obey our ^[m]instruction in this letter, take special note of that person *so as* not to associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. ¹⁵ And *yet* do not regard *that person* as an enemy, but admonish *that one* as a brother *or sister*.

¹⁶ Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every ^[p]circumstance. The Lord be with you all!

¹⁷ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.

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

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's Questions and incites

1. 'Finally brethren, pray for us' Paul leaves the best instruction to the end!
2. Prayer – this is a subject we could spend forever reflecting on.
3. Paul asks for personal prayer, we all need prayer from time to time, because the journey through life is a long one.
4. When was the last time you asked to be prayed for?
5. When Paul prays he is specific in his request, Paul wants God to save the world.
6. He uses the term rapidly meaning very quickly because the time of opportunity will quickly pass.
7. God wants our lives to be used as a prayer to all those around us.
8. For the word to be glorified - is for it be worked out for the good in the lives of the hearers.
9. To be rescued - is to be snatched from the hand of all who wish evil upon us.
10. Not everyone has faith - so many will die outside of forgiveness and a trust in Jesus death.
11. God can be trusted – you can count on Him to protect you from the evil one, both now and then.
12. To have confidence in someone - is to trust them with what you say.
13. For our hearts to be directed towards the love of God – is for us to believe and receive His love for us.
14. What is it to commend someone in the Lord? – It is to bring them to the awareness regarding what God has said and done.
15. Faith enables you to see past the present, faith takes you into the future.
16. We can't see into the darkness until we receive some light.
17. Why is it important to stay away from Christians who give themselves back to the desires of the flesh?
18. The traditions Paul is talking about are the application of the fundamental truths that give us access to God through Jesus.
19. Paul is happy to offer himself up as someone who is walking with God the right way.
20. Discipline is not the same as religion.
21. Taking back control of the flesh is all part of sanctification.
22. Lazy and loathers, Paul says, need to work and pay their way, dependency will make everyone suffer in the end.
23. How different Paul's perspective of not being a financial burden to the church, compared to the TV evangelists and preachers we often see is.
24. Paul would rather suffer and go without to set the right example.
25. Work is a gift, it provides well being and food. Eating food through labour is sweeter and more satisfying than eating having not worked.
26. Some of the Church were skivers and undisciplined.
27. A life without structure creates problems and irresponsibility.
28. We need to be those who work and serve without pomp and ceremony, you don't need the approval of men when you have the approval of God.
29. If we stop doing good, we move away from the call of God on our lives, which is to be a blessing to the world.
30. The rebellious will bear the burden of judgement and isolation.
31. The purpose of conviction is to bring about change.

32. Identifying the boundary lines and upholding the standards is essential if we are to know what to do.
33. We should always discipline with love not hostility.
34. God's peace is for all who live in peace no matter how difficult life becomes.
35. If we know God is with us it will make all the difference during the trials.
36. Paul is the author of this letter, his hallmark in all of his letters was the grace of God to act.