

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians

## Review

### Salutation and Greeting

- **Salutation [1:1]**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

- **Greeting [1:2]**

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Thanksgiving, Encouragement and Prayer

- **Thanksgiving [1:3-4]**

We ought to give thanks to God for you always, brethren, as is *only proper*, because your faith is increasing greatly, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater; as a result, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

- Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:3-4

- We can never earn nor deserve God's grace, but when we see Him pour out His grace upon us or others, we should recognize that we owe Him a debt of thanks [2 Thess 2:13; 1 Cor 1:4].
- This attitude of thankfulness should be a constant part of our spiritual mental dynamics [1 Thess 5:16-18].
- Paul's thankfulness was proper because it was not based upon potential, but upon actual results of God's answer to prayer.
- Paul's thankfulness was based upon these answers to prayer regarding the believers in Thessalonica...
  - Their dynamic faith in God and His promises was increasing greatly [Mark 9:24; Luke 17:5; Jude 20].
  - Their **ἀγάπη** love for one another was growing to the point of abundance [Phil 1:9; 1 Thess 4:9-10].
- The capacity for believers to express Christ-like **ἀγάπη** love for one another (and for unbelievers) is a great measure of their spiritual growth [John 13:34-35; 15:12-13; Eph 5:1-2].
- When a pastor sees the flock growing in faith and love, he will be filled with joy and will speak proudly about them [2 Cor 7:4].

- This is especially true when the flock is enduring persecution and affliction [1 Thess 2:14; James 5:10-11].
- It is very important for all believers to recognize that, if we desire to live godly in Christ Jesus, we are promised that we will suffer persecution [2 Tim 3:10-12].
- The issue will be how we handle that persecution...
  - If we handle it in the strength of God, we will endure.
  - If we try to handle it in our own strength, we will fall away [Matt 13:20-21].
- **Encouragement [1:5-10]**

*This is clear proof of God's righteous judgment seeing that you are considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. After all, it is just in the sight of God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and *to give rest* to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. All of these will pay the penalty of eternal ruin, away from the presence of the Lord and from the splendor of His power, when He comes on that Day to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed.*

  - Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:5-10
    - Eternal salvation comes by grace through faith alone in Christ alone [Eph 2:8-9].
    - While obedience after being saved can never earn salvation, the works which believers do as unto the Lord can demonstrate their faith to others [Eph 2:10; Jas 2:18].
    - Likewise, when believers endure under suffering by God's strength, they demonstrate that they are children of God.
    - Believers who desire to live godly in this fallen world will suffer persecution [2 Tim 3:12].
    - When God's matchless grace is bestowed upon His children who are suffering, it is clear proof of His righteous judgment.
    - If believers suffer because they are treated wrongly by others, they can rest knowing that God will deal with their persecutors [Col 3:25].
    - We may not personally witness God's perfect justice being carried out on those who afflict us, but we can rest knowing that God ultimately deals with them [Rom 12:19; Heb 10:30-31].
    - When Jesus Christ returns at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent to establish His kingdom on this earth, He will execute righteous judgments in the land [Isa 9:7; Jer 23:5-6].
    - He will come with His mighty angels in a spectacular event that will be seen by the entire world [Matt 25:31; Rev 1:7].

- After conquering His enemies at Armageddon, Jesus will carry out the Sheep and Goats Judgment [Matt 25:32-46] and Wilderness Judgment [Ezek 20:33-38] leaving only believers on the earth in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom.
- All believers from Adam forward will be present as Christ establishes His Kingdom and He will be glorified in His saints [John 17:9-10] who stand before Him in pure admiration.

- **Prayer [1:11-12]**

To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will consider you worthy of your calling, and will fulfill, by His power, every desire for goodness and the work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.

- Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:11-12

- Members of the Body of Christ should pray for the spiritual growth of other believers [Eph 3:14-19; Phil 1:9-11; Col 1:9-12].
- This intercessory prayer should be part of our continual prayer ministry [Eph 6:18-20; 1 Thess 5:16-18].
- Intercessory prayer offered by a believer walking in the Light is righteous [1 Sam 12:23-24] and accomplishes much [Jas 5:16].
- Jesus taught His disciples to pray...
  - To God the Father [Matt 6:9a]
  - In a spirit of reverence [Matt 6:9b]
  - In view of His A to Ω plan [Matt 6:10a]
  - Humbly acknowledging His sovereign will [Matt 6:10b]
  - Asking for necessary spiritual nourishment [Matt 6:11]
  - Asking for forgiveness [Matt 6:12]
  - Asking for protection from evil [Matt 6:13a]
  - Humbly acknowledging God's sovereignty, omnipotence and glory [Matt 6:13b]
- No one is worthy of salvation, but as believers we can live our lives in a way that is consistent with our position in Christ [Eph 4:1-3; Phil 3:14; 1 Thess 2:12].
- We accomplish this by relying upon the power of God working in us, not the energy of the flesh [Eph 1:18-19; 6:10; Phil 2:12-13; Col 1:29; Heb 13:20-21].
- As we mature, our desires should line up with that which is good and pleasing in God's sight [2 Cor 5:9; Eph 5:7-10; 1 Thess 4:1].
- Our faith increases as we do the work assignments which God has prepared for us [Eph 2:10] as a function of faith [Jas 2:22].
- Doing these good works in the strength which God supplies will exalt the name of our Lord Jesus and glorify God [Matt 5:16; 1 Cor 10:31; Phil 2:9-11; Col 3:17; 1 Pet 2:12; 4:11].

## **Correction of Doctrinal Error**

### **• Rapture versus Day of the Lord [2:1-2]**

Now with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we request of you, brethren, that you not be easily shaken from your composure or be alarmed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, claiming that the day of the Lord is already here.

#### ○ Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:1-2

- Even though Church-age believers will not experience the events of the Tribulation, it is important for us to understand Biblical eschatology so we will not be easily confused regarding the signs of the times or misled by false teaching.
- Paul had already taught the Thessalonians that the Church will be saved from the wrath of the Tribulation when Jesus comes to get the Church at the Rapture [1 Thess 1:10; 4:16-17].
- Paul had also taught the Thessalonians about the Day of the Lord [1 Thess 5:1-3] which includes the 7-year Tribulation period.
- Near the end of that 7-year period, Jesus Christ will return to the earth to judge unbelievers and establish His kingdom on earth.
- It appears that someone had led the Thessalonians to believe that the Day of the Lord was already happening in their time.
- Rapture
  - For the Church only [1 Thess 4:16]
  - A mystery previously unknown [1 Cor 15:51-52]
  - Jesus does not come to the earth [1 Thess 4:17]
  - Believers receive their resurrection bodies [1 Cor 15:53-54]
  - Christ is the Bridegroom [John 3:29]
  - The earth's environment is unaffected
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent
  - A worldwide event [Matt 24:29-30]
  - A prophesied event [Zech 14:4]
  - Jesus comes to the earth [Matt 25:31]
  - Unbelievers receive their due judgment [Matt 25:32ff]
  - Christ is the King and Judge [Rev 17:14; 19:16; Isa 33:22]
  - The earth's environment is changed [Micah 1:3-4]
- By understanding these things clearly, we will not be easily shaken from our composure.
- If we trust in the Lord and trust what His word teaches us about future events, we will remain steadfast in mind [Isa 26:3].
- Even though we may encounter people who try to stir things up [Acts 17:13], Jesus has promised us His peace if we trust in Him [John 14:1, 27].

- **Rapture before Man of Lawlessness [2:3-5]**

Let no one in any way deceive you, for the Day of the Lord *will not come* unless the Rapture comes first, and then the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes God and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, with the result that he takes the seat of authority in the temple of God, publicly proclaiming himself as being God. Do you not recall that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

- Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3-5

- As believers, we should be aware that there will be people who will try to deceive us [Eph 5:6; Col 2:8].
- This was true during the stewardship of Israel as well [Jer 14:14; 29:8-9].
- Our greatest defense against being deceived is to grow spiritually so that we will be grounded in God's truth [Eph 4:14-16; 6:11].
- We should not allow ourselves to be deceived into believing that we will experience the events of the Day of the Lord.
- We can be confident that the Rapture will occur before the Day of the Lord and we shall be delivered [1 Thess 1:10].
- After the Rapture has taken place, the Antichrist will be revealed [1 John 2:22; Rev 13:5-8].
- The Antichrist will arrogantly oppose God in everything that he does [Rev 13:5-6].
- He will also oppose believers and be worshipped by unbelievers [Rev 13:7-8].
- The Antichrist will exalt himself above every object of worship and claim to be God after the pattern of Satan [Isa 14:13-14].
- Pastors should teach the flock of God among them [1 Pet 5:2] about these things so they will know the Church's place in God's A to Ω timeline.
- The congregation should learn these things and keep them in mind so they are not rattled (knocked off course) by current events or the elaborate musings of false teachers.

- **The Restrainer [2:6-7]**

And you know what restrains him now, so that in his own time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; He who alone restrains at the present time *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.

- Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:6-7

- The Holy Spirit, just like the Father and the Son, is omnipresent [Psalm 139:7-8; Jer 23:23-24].
- However, He has a particular presence on earth through His indwelling of every Church-age believer [1 Cor 3:16; 6:19].

- That presence holds in check the lawlessness which exists today because the spirit of the Antichrist is already here [1 John 4:2-3].
  - The Antichrist himself will not come to prominence until that restraining presence is removed from the earth [v. 8].
  - This will take place when the Church is removed from the earth at the Rapture event [1 Thess 4:16-17].
  - This passage confirms the pre-Trib Rapture because the Rapture will precede the revealing of the man of lawlessness which will precede the Day of the Lord [v. 3].
  - This logical conclusion is true regardless of the translation of *ἀποστασία* (apostasia) in verse 3.
  - When the presence of the Holy Spirit is removed and the Antichrist comes to prominence, the lawlessness on earth will intensify [vv. 9-10].
  - Satan is behind all lawlessness – the present mystery of lawlessness and the future lawlessness of the Antichrist.
- **The Lawless One Revealed [2:8-10]**

Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will put to death with the breath of His mouth and bring *him and his works* to an end by the spectacular appearance of His coming. The coming *of the lawless one* is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with every unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

    - Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:8-10
      - At the present time, the Holy Spirit, who indwells every born-again believer, is the Restrainer of evil on earth.
      - The mystery of lawlessness, which already exists today, is held in check by the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ.
      - After the Holy Spirit is removed from the earth at the Rapture of the Church, the Antichrist will come to prominence and unleash lawlessness upon the earth [Dan 11:36-45].
      - When Jesus Christ returns in spectacular fashion at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent [Matt 24:29-31], He will put the Antichrist (and his followers) to death [Rev 19:19-21].
      - At that time, all of the evil which the Antichrist will have purposed to do will be brought to an end as well.
      - In God's permissive will, Satan has the power to bring about miracles [Exod 7:8-22].
      - Satan will use counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders to bring the Antichrist to prominence [Rev 13:11-15].
      - The power of Satan will enable the Antichrist to exert his authority over the people of the earth [Rev 13:3-7].

- Unbelievers during the Tribulation will fall for Satan's lies and worship the Antichrist [Rev 13:8].
- These unbelievers, just like unbelievers today, will be blinded by the deception of Satan and will not accept the gospel so as to be saved [1 Cor 1:18; 2 Cor 4:3-4].
- This follows Satan's pattern which is to work directly against God's desire to see all people get saved [1 Tim 2:3-4].
- The simple truth of the gospel [Acts 4:12] will be veiled by Satan who will attempt to exalt his counterfeit "trinity".
- **The Deluding Influence [2:11-12]**

Consequently, God will send upon them a powerful delusion with the result that they will believe the lie, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but instead took pleasure in unrighteousness.

  - Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:11-12
    - While God desires that none should perish [2 Pet 3:9], He does not force people to believe and some will reject Him.
    - After Pharaoh chose to harden his own heart [Ex 8:15, 32], God hardened Pharaoh's heart [Ex 10:1, 20].
    - In a similar way, God has partially hardened the hearts of the Jewish people during the present age [Rom 11:25].
    - During the Tribulation, God will send a powerful deluding influence upon those who have chosen to reject Him.
    - This will include people who actively rejected the gospel prior to the Rapture as well as those who do so afterwards.
    - This deluding influence will cause these unbelievers to buy into Satan's lie regarding the Antichrist [v. 4].
    - These unbelievers choose to take pleasure in unrighteousness instead of believing God's truth and this deluding influence gives them over to more of what they already want [Rom 1:18-32].
    - Their freewill choice to indulge the lusts of their flesh rather than trusting in God's remedy for the sin problem results in judgment and, ultimately, the Lake of Fire [Rev 20:11-15] as they are held accountable for their choices [Rom 1:20].

### **More Thanksgiving, Encouragement and Prayer**

- **Thanksgiving [2:13-14]**

But we ought to give thanks to God for you always, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

○ Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:13-14

- In sharp contrast with the bleak future awaiting the unbelievers mentioned in verses 10-12, the believers in Thessalonica had a glorious future awaiting them.
- This motivated Paul to express his thankfulness to God once again [2 Thess 1:3].
- Paul knew that the Thessalonians had been saved not because of his own efforts, but by the grace of God [Eph 2:8-9].
- The believers in Thessalonica, like all other believers, are the objects of God infinite love [Rom 8:37-39].
- In eternity past, God exercised His sovereignty in the sphere of His infinite love by choosing for the salvation of mankind to come by grace through faith rather than through any other means.
- He demonstrates His infinite love by having Jesus Christ die for us even while we were yet sinners [Rom 5:8].
- At the moment someone trusts in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit performs His sanctifying work in that person...
  - regeneration [Titus 3:5]
  - indwelling [Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 3:16]
  - baptism [1 Cor 12:13]
  - etc...
- After salvation, the Holy Spirit continues His sanctifying work in each believer [1 Thess 4:3-8].
- People are saved through faith and should continue to live by faith after their salvation [Col 2:6-7].
- By doing so, believers can enjoy the abundant life that God has purposed, and Christ came to bring to them [John 10:10].
- As determined in eternity past, God intends for each believer to become more and more Christ-like over time [Rom 8:29].
- This comes through spiritual growth as believers yield to the Holy Spirit [Gal 5:16] and pursue godliness [1 Tim 6:11].
- Ultimately, every believer will be perfectly glorified in the image of Christ [Rom 8:16-17].

● **Encouragement [2:15]**

So then, brethren, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

○ Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:15

- Born-again believers cannot lose hold of their salvation [John 6:39-40; 10:27-29; Rom 8:38-39].



- However, it is incumbent upon believers to stand firm in the faith [1 Cor 16:13; Gal 5:1; Phil 1:27; 4:1] and hold fast to the truth of God's word [1 Cor 11:2; Rev 2:25; 3:11].
- If we fail to do so, we will become spiritually unstable and easily affected by all sorts of false ideas [Eph 4:14].
- Paul, along with Sylvanus and Timothy, had delivered the word of God to the Thessalonians [1 Cor 11:23; 15:3].
- Later in this letter, Paul commands the Thessalonians to avoid people who live in a way not in accordance with the word of God they had delivered [2 Thess 3:6].
- Today, God provides pastor-teachers to deliver the word of God to their congregations [Eph 4:11-12].

- **Prayer [2:16-17]**

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us unending encouragement and beneficial hope by grace, encourage and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

- Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:16-17

- Only born-again believers can refer to God as Father [John 1:12-13; Gal 3:26; 4:6-7].
- Both the Son and the Father hear and answer our prayers [John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23].
- The Son loved us so much that He went to the Cross for us [Gal 2:20] and the Father loved us so much that He sent His Son to the Cross for us [John 3:16-17].
- Salvation is a gift from God [Eph 2:8-9], but God continues to give blessings to believers after their salvation [Rom 8:32].
- One of those blessings is encouragement [Rom 15:5].
- God often uses other believers to bring us this blessing of encouragement [Acts 11:22-23; 14:21-22; Col 4:7-11; 1 Th 3:2; 5:11, 14; Heb 3:13; 10:23-25].
- This encouragement can lead to an abundant and beneficial hope [Rom 15:13; Heb 6:17-18].
- This hope becomes the anchor for our souls [Heb 6:19-20].
- These blessings, along with everything believers are and have, comes from God on the basis of grace [Rom 5:1-5; 1 Cor 15:10].
- God's grace equips, strengthens and stabilizes us, so we should stand firm in His grace [1 Pet 5:10-12].
- We need the encouragement and strengthening in our hearts that comes from the word of God for every good work God has called us to do [2 Tim 3:16-17].
- We need the encouragement and strengthening in our hearts that comes from the word of God for every good work God has called us to do [2 Tim 3:16-17].
- Our words should always be gracious so that they might glorify God [Col 3:17; 4:6; 1 Cor 10:31].
- Our words reflect our thoughts [Psalm 19:14; Matt 15:18-20].

## **Exhortations**

- **Pray for the Apostles [3:1-2]**

In addition, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be received with honor, just *as it* did also with you; and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.

- Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:1-2

- Paul understood the importance of having people praying for him [Rom 15:30-31; Col 4:2-4; Eph 6:18-20; 1 Thess 5:25].
- In particular, Paul asked for prayer that the gospel would spread rapidly and be believed by those who heard it.
- Paul was in Corinth when he wrote this letter and that city was a pleasure-loving city full of wild heathens, so he knew that sharing the gospel would be a daunting task.
- By God's grace, the prayers of the Thessalonians were answered and some of the Corinthians were saved [Acts 18:5-8].
- Even a city like Corinth, full of debauchery and hedonism, was not beyond the reach of the power of the gospel [Rom 1:16].
- God magnifies His word in accordance with His name [Psalm 138:2] and His word does not return to Him empty [Isa 55:11].
- The Thessalonians had personally experienced the power of the gospel and were blessed by the preaching of God's word, so it was incumbent upon them to pray for its continued progress.
- We should not be selfish about our own salvation, but should pray that others would come to know Christ as well.
- We should also share the gospel with gentleness and respect whenever the opportunity comes [1 Pet 3:15].
- Paul also asked for prayer for the protection of his team of evangelists.
- Paul, Sylvanus and Timothy had already experienced opposition in Thessalonica and Paul anticipated opposition in Corinth.
- Likewise, we should pray that God will protect our local church and the elders of the church from those that are doing the bidding of Satan [2 Cor 2:10-11; 4:3-4; 1 Pet 5:8].

- **Continue in the Lord [3:3-5]**

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*. We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will *continue to* do what we teach you. Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

○ Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:3-5

- God is faithful [2 Tim 2:13] and, therefore, true to His promises [Num 23:19; 2 Cor 1:18-20; Titus 1:1-2; Heb 6:13-18].
- God Himself strengthens believers [Phil 4:13; 1 Pet 5:10] through the Holy Spirit [Eph 3:16].
- This strengthening comes through knowledge of His word as we gain spiritual wisdom and understanding which provides true empowerment [Col 1:9-11].
- God Himself also protects believers from all evil, including the evil one himself [Psalm 121:7-8; Jn 17:15; 2 Tim 4:18; 1 Jn 5:18].
- While it is good to trust in the Lord, it is a bad idea to put our trust in mankind [Psalm 118:8-9; 146:3; Jer 17:5].
- Sometimes people – friends, loved ones, members of our local church, etc. – will let us down, but God will never fail us [Deut 4:31; 31:6; Josh 23:14; 1 Chr 28:20].
- The confidence we have in other believers should be based in knowing that God is working in their lives [Gal 5:10; Phil 1:6].
- We can see evidence of this when believers are learning the word of God and following what they have learned.
- We should pray that God will remove all obstacles preventing other believers from being such disciples of Christ.
- As believers follow God's word and grow in their faith, God develops His love in them which includes love for Him [Deut 30:6; John 17:25-26; Rom 5:3-5; 1 John 2:5-6; 5:3].
- Likewise, true disciples of Christ will become more steadfast in their faith which results in patient endurance when facing testing [Heb 12:1-3; Rev 2:2-3].

● **Correct the Undisciplined [3:6-12]**

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an undisciplined life and not in accordance with the teachings which they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but instead with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right *to this*, but rather in order to offer ourselves as a model *of conduct* for you, so that you would follow our example. In fact, when we were with you, we used to give you this command: if anyone is not willing to work, then do not let him eat. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but instead acting like busybodies. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

○ Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:6-12

- As believers, fellowship with other believers is one of the precious blessings of the Christian life [1 John 1:1-7].
- However, if a believer is not following the principles of the word of God and is leading an undisciplined life, we should break fellowship with that person [Rom 16:17; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John 10].
- The like-mindedness we have in the word of God is the basis for the fellowship we have with one another and with God.
- We have all been blessed with teachers who have shared with us many things from the word of God, and we do well to follow the teachings we have received [1 Cor 11:2; 2 Th 2:15; Luke 11:28].
- We have also been blessed with spiritual examples for us to follow [1 Cor 11:1; Phil 3:17; 4:9].
- When we follow the teachings of the word of God and our spiritual mentors, we become examples for others [1 Th 1:6-7].
- One of the ways believers can live an undisciplined life is by being unwilling to work [Prov 19:15; 21:25-26].
- In addition to being idle, another undisciplined type of behavior is that of a busybody [1 Tim 5:13; 1 Pet 4:15].
- The word of God teaches us to work hard and mind our own business [Prov 13:11; Acts 20:34-35; Eph 4:28; 1 Thess 4:11] and correct those who do not [2 Tim 2:24-26].
- The apostles had the right to be supported by others and not work [1 Cor 9:6], but Paul and others chose to work to support themselves and not be a burden to others [Acts 18:3; 2 Cor 12:14-15; 1 Thess 2:9].
- The congregation ought to desire to support their pastor so he does not have to work [1 Tim 5:18], but the pastor may choose to work so as not to be a burden to the church.
- By giving up their spiritual rights, these apostles and pastors set an example for others to follow.
- We should be more concerned about our testimony and building one another up rather than demanding our spiritual rights [Rom 14:20-21; 15:1-2; 1 Cor 10:23-24].
- All Church-age believers should strive for the building up of the body of Christ [Eph 4:11-16].

● **Continue Doing Good [3:13]**

But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing what is right.

○ Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:13

- As unbelievers, we are called to place our faith in Jesus Christ so as to be saved [Eph 2:8-9], receiving eternal life [John 3:16].

- As believers, we are called to do the good works which God prepared for us in eternity past [Eph 2:10].
- Even if it becomes difficult, we should continue to take every opportunity to do these good works to all people [Luke 6:27-28], especially our fellow believers [Gal 6:9-10].
- If we find ourselves growing weary and losing motivation, we should turn to the Lord who will strengthen us [Isa 40:29-31].
- We can avoid growing weary and losing heart by focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ and what He endured [Heb 12:3].
- In addition, if we are doing the Lord's work assignments, we should know that our toil will never be in vain [1 Cor 15:58].
- We do well when we avoid anything evil and focus our attention on doing what is righteous in God's eyes [Psalm 34:14; 37:3; 1 Pet 3:11-12].
- As fallen creatures, we must learn to do what is truly righteous [Isa 1:17; 64:6; 1 Tim 6:18-19].
- It is a wonderful thing to be found a good and faithful servant [Matt 25:21], having done good in one's lifetime [Ecc 3:12].

- **Admonish the Disobedient [3:14-15]**

If anyone does not follow our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. *Yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother in Christ.

- Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:14-15

- As an apostle, Paul's writings in this epistle have authority as the word of God [2 Pet 1:20-21].
- Therefore, the content of instruction given in this epistle ought to be followed by believers [Prov 8:33; 10:17].
- If any believer chooses not to follow these instructions (or any other instructions found in the Bible), they are not to be associated with.
- This involves having no social contact with that believer, not breaking off all contact.
- The purpose for this cessation of social contact is to make the disobedient believer feel shame.
- The ultimate goal is not the shame itself, but shame resulting in repentance [2 Cor 7:9-10].
- The disobedient believer is not to be thought of as an enemy, but as one who needs to be restored to fellowship [Gal 6:1].
- When the opportunity presents itself, we should admonish such a believer [1 Thess 5:14].
- This admonishment is not to be done arrogantly or in anger, but spoken in the sphere of love [Prov 27:5; 1 Cor 16:14; Eph 4:15].

## **Conclusion**

- **Conclusion [3:16-18]**

Now may the Lord of Peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all! I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

- Principles of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:16-18

- Our Lord is the God of peace [Rom 15:33; 16:20; 2 Cor 13:11; Phil 4:9; 1 Thess 5:23; Heb 13:20].
- The fallen angel (Allah) that the Muslims worship is about anything but peace.
- The peace we have with God is through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [Rom 5:1].
- When we walk in the Light, in fellowship with God, He fills us with joy and peace [Rom 15:13].
- When we entrust all our worries and concerns to God in prayer, the very peace of God will protect our hearts [Phil 4:6-7].
- This peace (contentment) does not depend upon the circumstances of life we may be facing [Phil 4:11-13].
- God desires for us to have peace within our local church, not confusion [1 Cor 14:33].
- While we walk in a worthy manner, we should be diligent to preserve the unity and peace in our local church [Eph 4:1-6].
- When we do all things within the sphere of love, it fosters unity within the congregation [Col 3:14].
- Jesus promised that He would always be with us [Matt 28:19-20].
- However, the phrase “the Lord be with you” is used to wish the blessings of the Lord on others [Ruth 2:4; 1 Sam 17:37; 20:13; 1 Chr 22:11; 2 Tim 4:22; Phlm 25].
- So is asking that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to be with others [Rom 16:24; Rev 22:21].
- Anything and everything positive in our lives has come about because of the grace of God [1 Cor 15:10; 2 Cor 9:8].
- The truth of the gospel gives us some insight into God’s grace, but we ought to strive to fully understand grace [Col 1:3-8].
- The grace of our Lord is more than abundant [1 Tim 1:14], and we have received grace upon grace [John 1:16].