Living Worthy in the Family of God 2 Thessalonians

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Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best. Other friends from Korea have helped in proof reading books for ChristAssembly.org, with our thanks in Christ Jesus for their friendship and faithful labors.

Beverly and I have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.



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Introduction

Paul wrote a second letter to the Thessalonians. The second letter concerns the intense persecution and affliction suffered by the Thessalonians. Paul reminded them that their persecution was a plain indication of God's coming judgment upon the ungodly for the persecution of the family of God.

Paul also addressed the return of Jesus Christ to earth and living worthy of the calling of Christ until then. The Thessalonians had been disturbed by people saying that Jesus Christ had returned and they had missed it. Paul explained in detail the signs that occur before Jesus returns to earth. Because those signs had not yet occurred, the Thessalonians may rest assured that they had not missed the return of Christ to earth.

Some saints at Thessalonica had given up work and become busybodies, doing no work at all. The ministry team at Thessalonica, consisting of Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, had set the example of hard work so that they could purchase their own bread. They were never a burden to anyone.

Paul directed the Thessalonians to stay away from people who disobeyed his instructions in his letters to the Thessalonians. Paul described a form of church discipline of not associating with the disobedient. Even so, the saints were not to treat the disobedient as an enemy.

Paul concluded his epistle by adding his distinguishing mark. Paul wanted the Thessalonians and others to identify his letters as original. He understood the counterfeits had already disturbed the Thessalonians. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to remember his letters and to be able to distinguish them from the work of imposters.

1 Worthy Ministry Team

The ministry team to Thessalonica included Paul, Sylvanus and Timothy. Those men joined Paul in sharing the Gospelthere and encouraging the disciples converted by Paul's personal visit to Thessalonica.

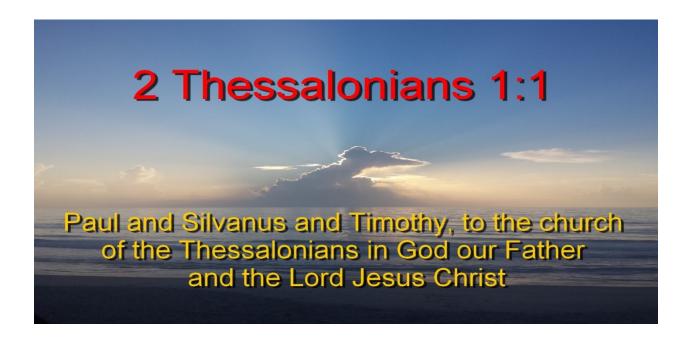
Paul frequently traveled with other men and ministered with other men. The Lord Jesus used ministry teams to spread His Gospelfar and wide. The team blessed the churches with grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The ministry team and other believers should always give thanks to God for the Thessalonians. Their faith had been greatly enlarged and their love grew greater and greater. The ministry team spoke proudly of them among the churches of God because of their perseverance in the faith in the midst of all kinds of persecutions and afflictions.

Paul also wrote about the theology of persecution. The Thessalonians endured persecution, so that they will be considered worthy of the kingdom

of God, for which they suffered. God will justly repay with affliction all the people who afflicted the Thessalonians. When the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, He will give relief to His afflicted children. He will deal out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the Gospelof the Lord Jesus. They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord, Who will be glorified in His saints. The ministry team prayed that God would count the Thessalonians worthy of their calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of the Lord Jesus would be glorified in them and they in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Day One The Church Today



Where is the church of the Thessalonians? The church of the Thessalonians is in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy formed a ministry team at Thessalonica. They met stiff opposition there, particularly from the Jews. Even after Paul left Thessalonica, some of the Jews from Thessalonica chased him.

Paul sent his letter to the church of the Thessalonians. He was not referring to a building, because he said the church was in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we know that Paul was writing to saints (people born again by faith in Christ).

Jesus only has one church, spread over the entire world. Only believers who have been born again are members of His church. Each member received at least one spiritual gift at the moment they were born again. Paul encouraged people to use their spiritual gifts and so live worthy in the kingdom of God. The church at Thessalonica faced very stiff opposition from the Jews of Thessalonica. Paul had personal experience there and loves the Thessalonians for their perseverance under fire.

Paul, Silvanus, Timothy

1. <u>**Paul, Silvanus, Timothy**</u>. Who wrote the second epistle to the Thessalonians? Paul wrote the epistle, but he included Silvanus and Timothy in the initial greeting. The ministry team consisted of Paul, Silvanus and Timothy.

2. <u>**Church**</u>. The church consists only of born-again believers. The church at Thessalonica endured a very hostile atmosphere.

3. <u>**Thessalonians.**</u> You may recall that Paul had a very rough visit in Thessalonica. The Jews there violently opposed Paul and chased him after he left town. The New Testament contains two letters by Paul to the Thessalonians.

4. <u>Father</u>. Paul wrote about God the Father, Who loves us, and gave Christ to the church as its Head.

5. <u>Lord</u>. Paul described Jesus as Lord. The Lordship of Christ will be emphasized in this epistle.

6. <u>Jesus</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we are the church of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul preached Jesus crucified and resurrected to the Thessalonians. They received Jesus as Savior and Lord.

7. <u>Christ.</u> We rejoice today because Jesus was the Messiah, the Anointed One of God. We worship Him because He is the Head of the church and the Savior of the body.

- We live worthy in the family of God by being part of a ministry team.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts to build up other believers.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by encouraging ministry teams to continue their ministries for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by joining a ministry team to serve Jesus. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by ministering to other believers undergoing persecution?

Day Two Grace to You Today



How did Paul greet fellow saints? Paul often greeted saints in his letters with the words grace and peace.

Grace means that God gives us things we do not deserve and can never earn. Grace takes many forms and produces a variety of results. Grace brings us salvation, sanctification, hope, strength and many other wonderful blessings which we do not deserve and cannot earn. God gives us grace because He loves us.

Peace means that God has justified us and so we live in peace that He gives to us. As we live in His peace, we fear only God and no one else. His peace surrounds us and indwells us as a gift of grace.

Paul indicated that grace and peace come from both God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father brought peace and grace into our lives through the Lord Jesus Christ. In turn, the Lord Jesus Christ provides the only way to the Father, by grace through faith resulting in peace with God. We delight in the grace and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We have what we do not deserve and we live in peace that surpasses all understanding. Without God, we live in darkness and death. By His grace and peace, we exult in God.

Peace

1. <u>**Grace**</u>. How did Paul often start his letters? He started with a greeting of grace and peace.

2. <u>Forgiven</u>. At the moment we received eternal life by grace through faith, all our sins were forgiven.

3. <u>**Peace**</u>. Even so, Paul still greeted people wishing them grace and peace, because we need grace and peace in our lives every day.

4. <u>Names</u>. Paul invoked the Names of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as the sources of grace and peace.

5. <u>**Greeting**</u>. When was the last time you greeted somebody in the Names of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ wishing them peace and grace?

6. <u>Learn</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we learn to greet people like Paul greeted people.

7. <u>**Riches**</u>. We rejoice today because God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will always be pouring the riches of grace and peace into our lives every day.

- We live worthy in the family of God by thanking God for the grace and peace He brought into our lives.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by greeting saints with grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by worshiping God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for the grace and peace They pour into our lives daily.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by walking in the grace and peace only God provides. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by delighting in grace and peace and sharing those gifts with someone else?

Day Three Give Thanks Today



What should believers always do? Believers should always give thanks for other believers growing up in Christ.

Paul wrote the Thessalonians that Paul, Sylvanus and Timothy ought always to give thanks to God for the Thessalonians. Paul said it was only fitting to give thanks. Paul gave thanks for very specific things he saw among the Thessalonians.

Paul noticed their faith. The faith of the Thessalonians was greatly enlarged. Many saints feel isolated and alone in their spiritual life. No one seems to notice when they are doing well and walking with Christ. If they slip up for just a moment, then many other people are quick to point out their faults. Paul prayed and thanked God for the growing faith of the Thessalonians. Please notice, however, that Paul told the Thessalonians that he noticed their growing faith. We need to give believers positive feedback when we noticed their faith growing. All believers need to hear that someone noticed their growing faith. Paul also noticed their love. The love of the Thessalonians for each other had been growing ever greater. Paul told the Thessalonians that he noticed their growing love. Our love for other believers provides an important measure of our walk with Christ. All believers need to hear that someone noticed their growing love for one another.

Your Faith

1. <u>**Give Thanks</u>**. Why did Paul give thanks for the Thessalonians? Paul gave thanks to God because of their faith and love.</u>

2. <u>Notice</u>. Paul noticed the faith and love of people. We should do likewise.

3. <u>**Tell**</u>. Paul told the Thessalonians that he noticed their faith and love. We should do likewise.

4. <u>Faith Enlarged</u>. Paul told the Thessalonians that their faith was greatly enlarged.

5. <u>Love Grows</u>. Paul told the Thessalonians that their love toward one another grows greater and greater.

6. <u>Friends</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we notice the faith and love of our friends in Christ.

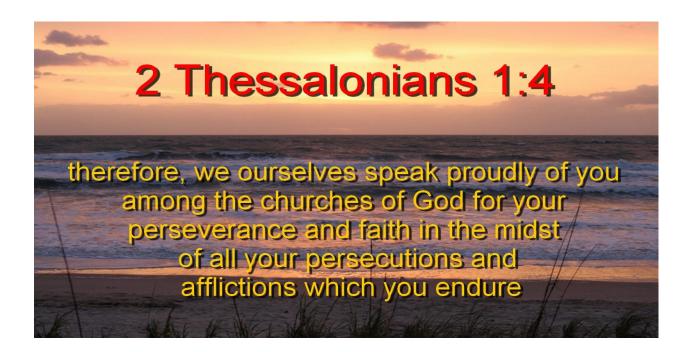
7. **Development**. We rejoice today because we can tell one another about the growth and development of their love and faith.

- We live worthy in the family of God by noticing the growing love and faith of other believers.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by telling other believers that we noticed their growing love and faith.
- > We live together worthy in the family of God by loving one another more and more and encouraging the faith of each other to grow more and more.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by loving one another and growing our faith. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by letting someone know you have seen their love growing and their faith greatly enlarged?

Day Four Speak Proudly Today



What confidence did Paul, Silvanus and Timothy have in the Thessalonians? They spoke proudly among the churches of God for their perseverance and faith in the midst of persecutions and tribulations which they endured. The term "persecutions" refers to being chased by evil. The term "tribulations" refers to being pressed together, so that evil pushes upon you and causes suffering.

The church of Thessalonica lived in a very hostile spiritual environment. The Jews brought persecutions and tribulations upon the saints living there. Some believers tend to wither in a hostile spiritual environment, while others may prosper.

The ministry team remembered the perseverance and faith of the Thessalonians. They had received the Gospeland remained strong. Perseverance means that they did not give up. Faith means they continued to believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The ministry team wanted the Thessalonians to know they were speaking proudly about them. Saints undergoing tribulations and afflictions because of their faith need the strength of encouragement kind words bring.

Paul, Silvanus and Timothy all supported the work at Thessalonica and were known to the Thessalonians. We should always stay in touch with the family of God, especially those saints undergoing persecutions and tribulations.

Persecutions and Afflictions

1. <u>We</u>. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy spoke proudly about the Thessalonians.

2. <u>Churches</u>. When Paul and Timothy communicated with churches, they spoke proudly about the Thessalonians.

3. <u>**Thessalonians**</u>. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know that he spoke proudly about them to all the churches.

4. <u>**Perseverance**</u>. Paul spoke about the perseverance and faith of the Thessalonians.

5. <u>**Persecutions**</u>. The Thessalonians lived in the midst of persecutions and tribulations.

6. <u>**Proudly</u>**. Living worthy in the family of God we should speak proudly of believers who demonstrate perseverance and faith in the midst of afflictions and persecutions which they endure.</u>

7. <u>Sustains</u>. We rejoice today because God sustains us in the midst of persecutions and afflictions.

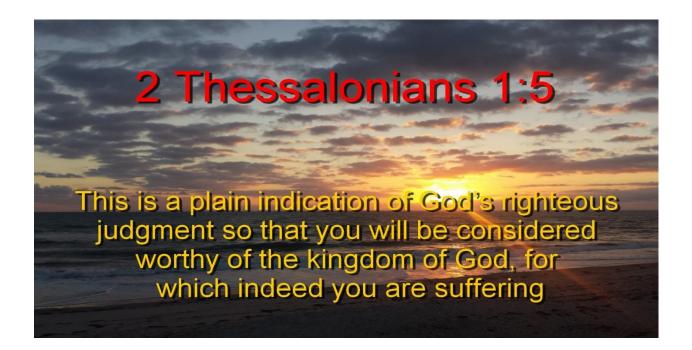
- We live worthy in the family of God by speaking proudly about the faith and perseverance of other saints.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by letting saints in the midst of persecutions and tribulations know that we speak proudly about their faith and perseverance.
- > We live together worthy in the family of God by lifting up other saints with proud words and praise as they undergo persecutions and tribulations.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by speaking proudly of the faith and perseverance of the saints, especially when they live in the midst of persecutions and tribulations. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by letting someone know you speak proudly of them to other churches?

Day Five

Worthy of the Kingdom of God Today



Why do Christians suffer persecution and tribulation? Suffering indicates God's righteous judgment.

The righteous judgment of God shows that saints who suffer persecution and tribulation for the kingdom of God are considered worthy of the kingdom of God. While God does not always impose His judgment upon evil men, God always renders that judgment at the appropriate time. At the Great White Throne Judgment, every unbeliever will be sentenced to the Lake of Fire where they will suffer commensurate with their deeds while alive on earth.

Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to look to the judgment of God for confirmation of the justice of God. God judges in righteousness, rewarding the faithful saints and punishing those who inflict persecution and tribulation upon them. The saints should always take heart that God never overlooks their suffering for the kingdom of God.

Suffering

1. **Judgment**. What is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment? God's plain judgment revealed itself when the Thessalonians were in the midst of persecutions and tribulations, enduring them while their faith and perseverance increased.

2. <u>**Persecution**</u>. God never forgets who persecutes His children, because persecuting the church amounts to persecuting Christ.

3. <u>Endurance</u>. As the Thessalonians endured persecution and tribulation, they would be considered worthy of the kingdom of God.

4. **<u>Suffering</u>**. The Thessalonians suffered persecutions and tribulations for the kingdom of God, not for their own sins.

5. <u>Church</u>. God does not always bring His judgment to bear immediately upon people who persecute the church, but His judgment will always come.

6. <u>**Considered Worthy**</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we endure persecutions and tribulations so that we will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God.

7. <u>**Kingdom**</u>. We rejoice today because God's righteous judgment will always be a blessing for believers who suffer today for the kingdom of God.

- We live worthy in the family of God by recognizing the plain judgment of God.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by taking heart that God will always render perfect judgments at the perfect time, rewarding the righteous and punishing the wicked.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by praising God that He looks upon every saint who suffers persecution and tribulation.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by recognizing the plain judgment of God as we endure suffering and persecution for the kingdom of God. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by praising God for His righteous judgment?

Day Six Just for God Today



What can every persecutor of the church expect to receive? They can expect to receive the justice of God.

The Thessalonians had experienced persecution and tribulation at the hands of evil people opposed to Jesus and His disciples. Paul told them their persecution was a plain indication of God's righteous judgment.

Paul brought theology to bear on every day of suffering. He pointed out that God is always just. Therefore, every persecutor would be repaid by God for what they had done to the church of Jesus Christ. Paul himself was a chief persecutor of the church before God gloriously saved him on the Damascus Road. Jesus told him that persecuting the church was the same as persecuting Jesus Himself.

God will repay the persecutors. God promised that they would not go unpunished. Therefore, as the Thessalonians suffered, they had the sure promise of God that their persecutors would answer for their evil actions.

God to Repay

1. **<u>Repay</u>**. Whom will God repay? God will repay the people who afflicted the Thessalonians.

2. <u>Just</u>. Because God is just, He repays the wages due to the persecutors.

3. <u>**Righteous**</u>. Many people today forget that God will always repay the persecutors based on His righteous judgments.

4. <u>**Time**</u>. God may repay the persecutors today or they may be repaid later. At the moment of salvation, you are no longer a persecutor of the church.

5. <u>Future</u>. In the future, all the persecutors will stand at the Great White Throne Judgment and be sentenced according to their deeds.

6. <u>Affliction</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we know God will always repay those who afflict us with affliction.

7. **Forgiveness by Belief**. We rejoice today because God offers forgiveness for everyone who believes that Christ took all of the affliction we deserve and receives Him as Savior by grace through faith.

- We live worthy in the family of God by remembering that God repays those who persecute the church.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by thanking God for His grace that saved us while we were enemies of God.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by loving God more for being a God of grace, mercy and justice.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by remembering that God never lets persecution and tribulation go without appropriate punishment. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by remembering that God knows, marks, and repays the people who persecute His church?

Day Seven Relief Today



When will God provide relief to the afflicted saints? When the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven.

Many people today do not expect to suffer for their faith. Some even seem astonished when persecution and tribulation come their way because of their faith. The Thessalonians knew about persecution and tribulation. They suffered because of their faith.

Jesus never promised that He would spare us from all persecution and tribulation. He did promise that He was coming back to earth. When the Lord Jesus will be revealed in the future, coming from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, then He will provide relief to the afflicted saints. Therefore today, saints should remember that God never overlooks persecution and tribulation, but has promised relief in the future. In the meantime, the saints understand that their affliction is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment, so that they will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God. All saints must strive to live worthy of the kingdom of God.

Flaming Fire

1. <u>**Relief**</u>. When will God provide relief to the afflicted saints? When the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven.

2. <u>**Persecution**</u>. God did not promise that, while we live on earth, we will be free from persecution and affliction.

3. <u>Christ</u>. God did promise that the Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire.

4. <u>**Revealed**</u>. When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven, then the saints will be relieved of persecution and affliction.

5. <u>**People Judged**</u>. When the Lord Jesus is revealed, those people persecuting the church will be judged.

6. <u>Flaming Fire</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we understand that the Lord Jesus will return from heaven and bring His mighty angels with Him in flaming fire.

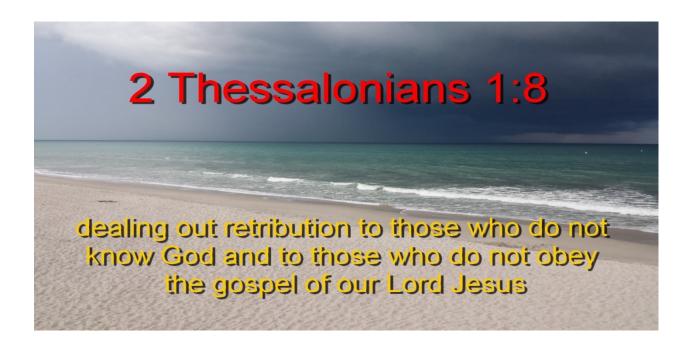
7. <u>Future</u>. We rejoice today because we look forward to the day when the saints will no longer suffer persecution and affliction because the Lord Jesus has been revealed from heaven.

- We live worthy in the family of God by looking forward to the relief of all the persecuted saints.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by looking forward to the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ coming from heaven with His angels in flaming fire.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by loving the Lord Jesus for His promise to return and relieve persecution and tribulation.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by looking forward to the return of the Lord Jesus with His angels. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by looking for Jesus to appear at any moment?

Day Eight Retribution Today



What will Jesus do when He returns with His angels? Jesus will deal out retribution to those who did not know God and who do not obey the Gospelof our Lord Jesus.

Not everyone will be happy when Jesus returns. Jesus said that many people will turn into the wide gate that leads to destruction, but few will enter through the narrow gate and find eternal life. Therefore, most people will not be happy when Jesus returns to earth.

The justice of God requires payment to satisfy the debt that is due. When a person sins against God, payment and blood is required to take away the debt incurred by sin. Jesus died and paid the sin debt in full with His precious blood. Even so, for the blood to become effective in your life, you must have faith that He died for you and was resurrected. Only people who have received the Gospel of Jesus Christ and believed it know God. Only through Jesus Christ can people know God. Without Jesus Christ, no one comes to the Father. At His return to earth, Jesus deals out retribution to everyone who does not know the Father.

Obey the Gospel

1. <u>Jesus' Return</u>. What will the Lord Jesus do when He returns with His angels? He will deal out retribution.

2. <u>**Retribution**</u>. People who persecute Christians do not grasp that they face the retribution of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Justice**. His justice requires complete payback to those who persecute His children.

4. <u>Believe</u>. The only way to avoid His justice is to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. <u>Saved</u>. Paul the apostle was a violent aggressor against the church and yet, Jesus saved him by the grace of God through faith.

6. **<u>Obey</u>**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we understand that Jesus will deal out retribution to everyone who does not obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

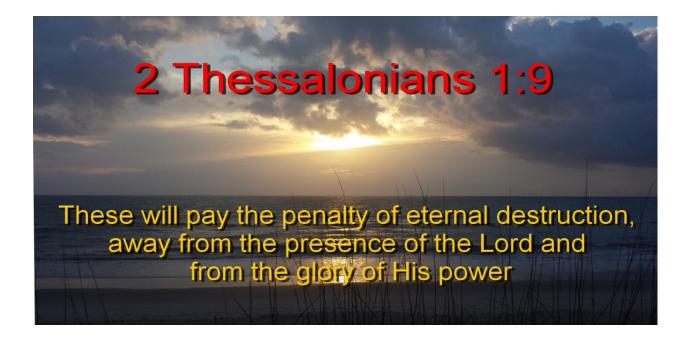
7. <u>**Gospel**</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus opened our hearts by His grace to believe His gospel.

- We live worthy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus deals out retribution to everyone who does not know God.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by thanking God that we believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ by grace through faith.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by rejoicing together that we know God because we received the Gospel of Jesus Christ with faith as a gift of God, so that no one may boast.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that people may believe and not face the retribution of Jesus Christ. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by rejoicing in Jesus that He purchased your salvation with His blood, so that we fear no retribution from Him when He returns to earth?

Day Nine Eternal Destruction Today



What happens to people who reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ? They spend eternity away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

When people persecute the church of Jesus Christ, the justice of God comes to bear upon them. During their lifetime on earth, they will not face the full justice of God. They will endure great suffering and eternal destruction in the future.

Eternal destruction begins the moment after death of the unbeliever. They suffer in the eternal fire of Hades, awaiting final judgment at the Great White Throne in heaven. The Lord Jesus will pronounce the appropriate amount of suffering for each unbeliever. They will also bow their knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Eternal destruction continues in the Lake of Fire, where they spend eternity away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. Many people believe that God does not hear them or see them, and they even doubt He exists. They will be sadly and powerfully brought to the reality that God knows everything they ever did and they will have to give an account of their actions and suffer the penalty commensurate with their sin. Ultimately, the Lake of Fire awaits every unbeliever, where they will suffer eternal punishment. Therefore the Lake of Fire exists away from the presence of the Lord and away from the glory of His power.

Away from the Lord

1. <u>**Penalty**</u>. What penalty will the persecutors of the church face after death? The penalty of eternal destruction.

2. <u>**Consequences**</u>. Many people today do not consider the long-term consequences of their actions on Earth.

3. <u>Eternal</u>. The penalty of eternal destruction takes place away from the presence of the Lord.

4. **Destruction**. The penalty of eternal destruction takes place away from the glory of His power.

5. **<u>Power</u>**. As saints, we see the power of Jesus at work in our lives every day.

6. <u>Warn Unsaved</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we must warn our unsaved family, friends, and others about the penalty of eternal destruction awaiting them.

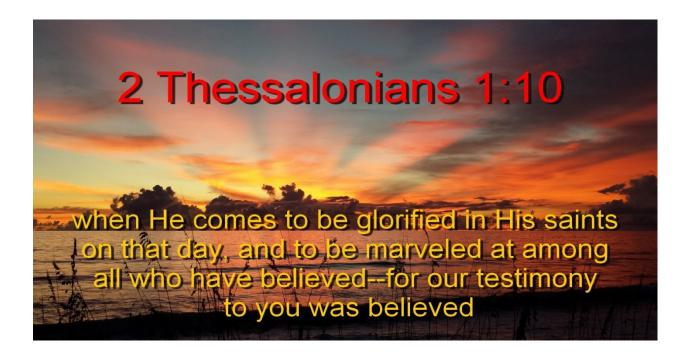
7. <u>Faith</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus, by grace through faith, saved us from the penalty of eternal destruction.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by remembering that eternal destruction awaits every unbeliever.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone currently on the path to eternal destruction.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by encouraging one another with the truth of God's word that we have escaped eternal destruction, which we deserved, only by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by thanking God the Father that He graciously rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by sharing your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with family, friends, and others heading towards eternal destruction?

Day Ten Marveled at Today



What will the saints do when Jesus comes back to earth? They will marvel at the Lord Jesus and He will be glorified in His saints.

When Jesus returns, He will be glorified in the saints. The saints alive on earth at that time will have endured the greatest tribulation, unlike anything before it. In fact, the tribulation will be so bad that no flesh would have survived, unless the Lord shortened those days.

John wrote in Revelation that Jesus will return to earth with an army from heaven. The saints in heaven also return with them to rule on the earth for a thousand years. Some saints in Israel will survive the tribulation on earth and will be looking up to receive their Messiah when He comes. Paul wanted to encourage the Thessalonians as they endured persecutions and tribulations. He drew their attention first to their persecutors and described the day of judgment awaiting them. He also revealed to the saints that God would be glorified in them and they would marvel at His appearance.

Glorified

1. <u>Marvel</u>. What will the saints do when they see Jesus returning to Earth? All those who have believed in Him will marvel at Him.

2. <u>**Glory</u>**. Seeing the glory of Jesus Christ in person will be a marvelous event for all who have received the testimony that Jesus is our true Savior.</u>

3. <u>Excellencies</u>. Peter reminded us that God chose us so that we would proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

4. **Jesus**. Jesus will also be glorified in the saints.

5. <u>Enemies</u>. When Jesus returns to earth, His enemies will shudder in fear and the saints will marvel at Him with great joy.

6. <u>Saints</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we will marvel at Jesus when He returns and He will be glorified in the saints.

7. **Future**. We rejoice today because our future in Jesus will be filled with marvels and glory.

- We live worthy in the family of God by looking forward to the day when Jesus will come back to earth.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by rejoicing as we ponder Jesus being glorified in the saints who marvel at His appearance.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by remembering the words of encouragement Paul gave to the Thessalonians about the return of Jesus.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by looking forward to the day when Jesus will be glorified in the saints and they marvel at His appearance. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by delighting in the certainty of Christ returning to Earth to reign for a thousand years?

Day Eleven We Pray Today



What goal did Paul have in mind when he prayed for the Thessalonians? Paul prayed that God would count them worthy of their calling.

Paul prayed always for the Thessalonians. He prayed specifically that our God would count them worthy of their calling. God calls people to Himself for salvation. God's call continues for the life of the saint. God calls us to live for Him and to glorify Him. Because God initiated the call upon our lives, and fulfilled the call through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, so now Christ owns us as slaves of righteousness, and we ought to walk worthy of that calling.

Paul also prayed that God would fulfill every desire for Godliness. The Thessalonians had a desire to do God's will. Paul prayed that those desires for Godliness in the Thessalonians would be fulfilled by God.

Paul also prayed that God would fulfill the work of faith with power. Paul meant that the Thessalonians had been spreading their faith, so that all of Achaea been exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul mentioned that the Thessalonians had a good testimony among the saints and their love was well known.

Worthy of Your Calling

1. <u>**Prayer Goal**</u>. What goal was Paul seeking in prayer for the Thessalonians? Paul prayed that God would count the Thessalonians worthy of their calling.

2. <u>**Prayer Content**</u>. Paul shared the content of his prayers with the Thessalonians and we should do the same.

3. <u>**Goodness**</u>. Paul also prayed that God will fulfill every desire for goodness in the Thessalonians.

4. **Fulfill**. Paul also prayed that God would fulfill the work of faith with power in the Thessalonians.

5. <u>Work of Faith</u>. Paul prayed specifically about the desires for goodness and the work of faith that the Thessalonians longed to fulfill.

6. **Power**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we pray for our friends in Christ that God would count them worthy of their calling and God would fulfill in them every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power.

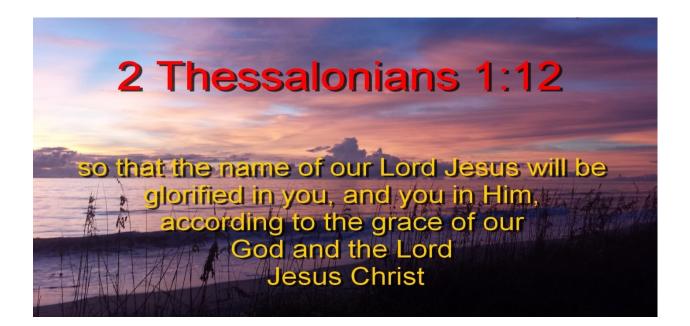
7. <u>Walk Worthy</u>. We rejoice today because we can pray for our friends in Christ to walk worthy of our calling.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by praying that God would fulfill in the saints the desire for Godliness and works of faith with power.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by praying for our friends in Christ and then letting them know what we prayed for them.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by thanking God for our desire for Godliness in the works of faith with power in our lives.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by praying that God would fulfill His plans for our lives. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by praying that God would fulfill the desires for Godliness and works of faith with power in the lives of your friends in Christ?

Day Twelve Grace Today



When Paul prayed, how did he tie together the glory of God and the grace of God? Paul prayed that the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ would be glorified in the Thessalonians.

Paul also prayed that the Thessalonians would be glorified in Christ. Therefore, we see that Paul prayed for glory in all aspects. God wants us to live our lives to the glory of the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul frequently refers to the Son of God as our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul prayed beautiful, well-constructed prayers with specific goals in mind. Therefore, Paul could understand if those goals had been met in the Thessalonians. When we pray specifically for identifiable results, we can glorify God when we see those results.

Paul wanted to know about the Thessalonians and he also wanted the Thessalonians to know how he was doing in prison. Paul was prayerfully focused upon the Thessalonians. Paul was looking to promote the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ by praying for the Thessalonians. He was not looking for his own glory.

Glorified in You

1. **<u>Result</u>**. What result did Paul pray for the Thessalonians to achieve? Paul prayed that the Name of our Lord Jesus would be glorified in them and they would be glorified in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Specific**. Paul prayed very specific prayers for the Thessalonians.

3. <u>**Prayer</u>**. Paul prayed that the Name of the Lord Jesus would be glorified in the Thessalonians. Paul linked the glory of God with the behavior of the Thessalonians.</u>

4. <u>Saints</u>. Saints can glorify the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ or bring shame upon His Name.

5. <u>**Glory</u>**. Paul prayed that the grace of God and the Lord Jesus Christ would be at work in the Thessalonians to glorify the name of Jesus and the Thessalonians would be glorified in Jesus, according to grace at work in the Thessalonians.</u>

6. <u>**Grace</u>**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we live by grace to glorify the Name of our Lord Jesus.</u>

7. <u>Worthy</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus called us to live worthy of His Name and to glorify His Name.

- We live worthy in the family of God by praying for our friends to glorify the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by sharing with our friends that we pray that they would glorify God.
- > We live together worthy in the family of God by sharing our prayer lives together in the body of Christ in seeking to promote the glory of Christ in us and us in Him.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by prayerfully focusing upon the glory of God in the lives of our friends in Christ. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by praying that your friends in Christ will glorify the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ so that He will be glorified in them and they in Him?

2

Worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ

Paul requested the Thessalonians not to be quickly shaken from their composure or be disturbed by a spirit or a message or letter is from the ministry team. Paul warned the Thessalonians not to be deceived about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul provided clear guidance on the timing of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and His gathering together of saints to Himself. If the Thessalonians understood the events preceding the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, then they could rest assured that they had not missed the return of Christ because the preceding events had not occurred.

Therefore, Paul provided a list of events that must precede the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth. Paul declared that the apostasy must come first. The man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, will be revealed. He exalts himself and opposes every so-called god or object of worship. He takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as God. The Thessalonians, based upon prior conversations with Paul, knew what restrained the man of lawlessness now, so that in his time he would be revealed. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work. In time, what restrained him will be removed so that he will be revealed in his time. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end with His appearance. The man of lawlessness will come in accord with the activity of satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not love the truth so as to be saved. God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, so that they may all be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know that the ministry team should always give thanks to God for them as beloved brethren, beloved by the Lord, because God had chosen them from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. God called the Thessalonians through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, proclaimed by the ministry team, that the Thessalonians may gain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul exhorted them to stand firm and hold to the traditions which they were taught, whether by word of mouth or letter from the ministry team.

Paul blessed the Thessalonians, requesting that our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our father, Who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen their hearts in every good work and word. Paul provided this beautiful link between (a) the theology of the future and the rise of the man of lawlessness with (b) the need to work hard today and follow the example of the ministry team, paying for its own bread while they lived with the Thessalonians, so they were not a burden to anyone.

Day Thirteen We Request Today



What did Paul request of the Thessalonians? Paul made a request regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him.

Paul distinguished two separate events in his letters to the Thessalonians. In First Thessalonians, Paul did not want the Thessalonians to grieve as those people who have no hope. He revealed that the Lord Jesus would return in the clouds and the dead in Christ would be raised. Before the dead in Christ were raised, in the twinkling of an eye, the people who came with Christ to the clouds would receive their glorified bodies first.

Paul commanded the Thessalonians to comfort one another with those words. They could look forward to their loved ones who died in Christ returning with Christ to the clouds where they would be resurrected, receiving glorified bodies at that moment. In Second Thessalonians, Paul described the Lord Jesus coming back to Earth. Zechariah in the Old Testament prophesied the Lord Jesus would return to the Mount of Olives after He vanquished His foes gathered up against Jerusalem. Paul referred to the time when Jesus set His feet upon Earth at the same place He had previously ascended to heaven. Paul did not want the Thessalonians to worry that the Lord Jesus had already returned to Earth, and somehow they had missed Him.

Gathering Together

1. **<u>Request</u>**. What request did Paul make of the Thessalonians? Paul made a request concerning their present response to future events.

2. <u>**Coming.</u>** Paul looked into the future and wrote concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.</u>

3. <u>**Clouds</u>**. Paul distinguished the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Clouds Resurrection.</u>

4. <u>**Resurrection**</u>. In 1Thessalonians 4:13-18, Paul comforted the Thessalonians with the assurance that Jesus would return to the clouds and resurrect the bodies of the saints.

5. <u>**Gathered**</u>. At the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, all the saints will be gathered together to Him on earth at Jerusalem.

6. <u>**Stand</u>**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we stand fast now in Christ as we look to the future.</u>

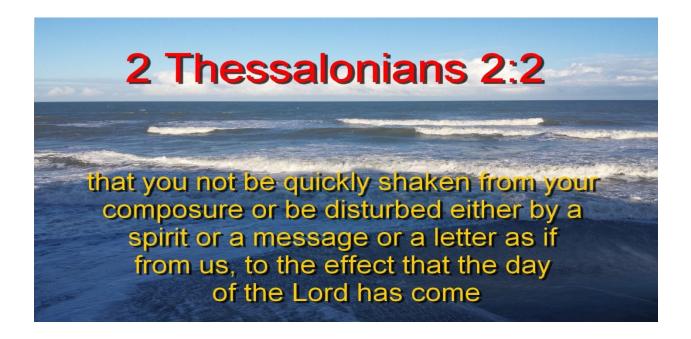
7. <u>Millennial</u>. We rejoice today because we look for Jesus to return first to the clouds and later put His feet upon the Mount of Olives, beginning His Millennial Reign upon Earth.

- We live worthy in the family of God by looking forward to the Lord Jesus Christ returning to Earth.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by looking forward to being gathered to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by encouraging each other that Jesus will come back and reign upon this earth and we will be with Him.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by looking forward to the day when Jesus will return to Earth. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by reminding your friends in Christ that Jesus will gather all of us to Him when He returns?

Day Fourteen Composure Today



How does the devil seek to attack us? The devil uses imposters to spread lies seeking to disturb the saints.

Paul understood the schemes of the devil. Paul understood that the devil influences people to send messages or write letters, as if they were written by the ministry team of Paul, Silvanus, or Timothy. Paul also understood that the devil could use a spirit to spread evil thoughts and lies about Jesus Christ.

The devil seeks to undermine the teachings of God and the Bible. The devil wants you to believe that Jesus came back and forgot all about you. The devil would love to convince you that you missed the second coming of Jesus Christ. Of course, when Jesus returns to set His feet upon the Mount of Olives, all born-again believers will know about it. They will be gathered to Him and reign with Him for thousand years in His millennial kingdom.

The devil wants to shake you up and disturb the peace that God gives to you. The devil does not want you to know a moment of peace, joy, love, grace, mercy or anything else that God produces in your life. Thanks be to Jesus Christ who has set us free to be His slaves of righteousness.

Shaken

1. <u>**Composure**</u>. Why was Paul concerned about the Thessalonians? Paul was concerned that their composure may be disturbed.

2. <u>**Misled**</u>. Paul warned the Thessalonians not to be misled by a spirit, or a message, or a letter, supposedly from one of the members of the ministry team.

3. <u>**Day of the Lord**</u>. Some deceiver may have tried to convince the Thessalonians that the Day of the Lord had come and they missed it.

4. <u>**Shaken**</u>. Paul did not want the Thessalonians to be shaken quickly from their composure in Christ.

5. <u>False Letter</u>. Paul did not want the Thessalonians to be deceived by some false letter or other device written to disturb them about the coming to the Lord Jesus.

6. <u>**Missed</u></u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we should not be shaken quickly from our composure by being deceived by someone saying or writing that the day of the Lord has come and we missed it.</u>**

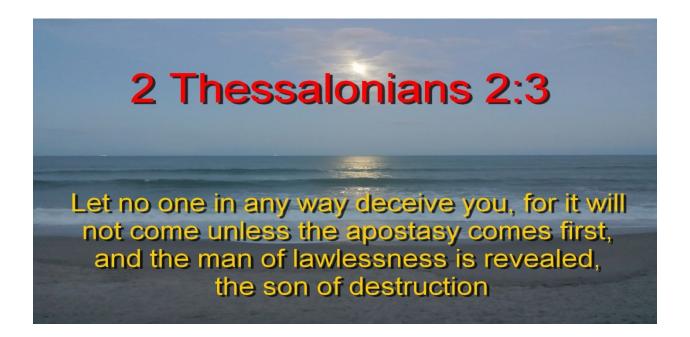
7. <u>**Great Glory</u>**. We rejoice today because Jesus will come back with great glory and with His mighty angels in flaming fire.</u>

- > We live worthy in the family of God by testing each spirit and examining each message or letter supposedly written by an apostle or prophet of God.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by resisting the schemes of the devil by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and God the Father.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by joining our hearts in love to stand united against the devil and his attacks upon us to disturb our peace and destroy our composure.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by resisting the deceptions of the devil. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by looking forward to Jesus returning to earth to reign for a thousand years?

Day Fifteen Revealed Today



How are Christians deceived? The devil uses a variety of schemes to deceive Christians. People were telling the Thessalonian saints that they had missed the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth. Paul wanted them to understand the Lord Jesus and that He would only appear after certain events took place. Paul did not want the Thessalonians thinking that Jesus returned, and they were forgotten by Him.

The Thessalonians could rest assured that Christ would appear with His angels in flaming fire. No saint would miss the return of Jesus Christ on the earth. Zechariah prophesied that Jesus would set His feet on the Mount of Olives, just as He promised when He ascended.

Evil men had sent letters and messengers proclaiming that Christ had already returned. The devil motivated them to say those lies, so that the believers would be very disturbed by such reports. Paul loved the Thessalonians and provided sound doctrine for them regarding the return of Christ. Before Christ would return, the apostasy must come first. That apostasy would include the revelation of the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction. When Christ appears in the future, He will put an end to the man of lawlessness and his evil ways.

Apostasy

1. <u>Signs</u>. What signs precede the return of the Lord Jesus? Apostasy precedes the coming of the Lord Jesus.

2. <u>Apostasy</u>. Apostasy means falling away from the faith, not falling away from the Earth, and the following phrase in the verse confirms that interpretation.

3. <u>Man of Lawlessness</u>. During the apostasy which comes first, the man of lawlessness will be revealed.

4. <u>Son of Destruction</u>. He is the son of destruction.

5. **Deceived**. Therefore, Paul told the Thessalonians not to be deceived that the Lord Jesus has returned to Earth and they missed it, because the apostasy had not yet come, and the man of lawlessness, who is the son of destruction, had not been revealed.

6. **Before**. Living worthy in the family of God means that the apostasy comes before the Lord Jesus returns to earth.

7. <u>**Triumph**</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus knows the future and controls the final outcome, where He triumphs and we live with Him forever.

- We live worthy in the family of God by remembering the signs of the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by letting no one deceive us, saying that Christ has already returned.
- > We live together worthy in the family of God by staying alert to the schemes of the devil and holding firm to the sound doctrine found in the Bible concerning all future events.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by studying the Scriptures to understand the order of events before and after Christ returns to the earth. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by looking forward to Jesus returning to earth after the apostasy, in which the son of destruction will be revealed?

Day Sixteen Object of Worship Today



What will the man of lawlessness do when he takes power? The man of lawlessness opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship.

People can identify the man of lawlessness by what he does. The man of lawlessness demands the center of attention, particularly in the realm of religion. He will oppose and exalt himself above every so-called god or object of worship. The man of lawlessness will take his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as God.

When you hear false teaching that the day of the Lord has come, and you missed it, do not worry. You know the false teachers are wrong, because the man of lawlessness must be revealed first. If the man of lawlessness has not taken his seat in the temple, displaying himself as God, then you know the day of the Lord has not yet come. Likewise, if the man of lawlessness has not opposed and exalted himself over every so-called god or object of worship, then you know the day of the Lord has not come. In this passage, Paul warns the believers not to be shaken by false teachers proclaiming the day of the Lord has come. Paul gives the Thessalonians proof that the day of the Lord has not come, because the man of lawlessness has not been revealed.

Seat in the Temple

1. <u>Man of Lawlessness</u>. How does the man of lawlessness pretend to be God? He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called God or object of worship.

2. <u>Apostasy</u>. Paul said that Jesus would not return to Earth until after the man of lawlessness was revealed, as part of the apostasy.

3. <u>Seat</u>. The man of lawlessness takes his seat in the temple of God.

4. **Display**. While sitting on the seat in the temple, the man of lawlessness displays himself as being God.

5. <u>**Pretense**</u>. The man of lawlessness will pretend to be God, but the true and only God will put an end to his reign by appearing in person with His mighty angels in flaming fire.

6. <u>End</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we have no fear of Christ coming, because we know when Christ comes, He will put an end to the man of lawlessness and his evil reign.

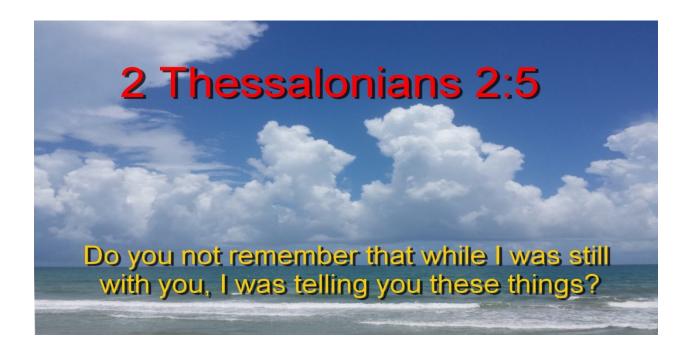
7. <u>Eternally</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus revealed the future and He wins eternally.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by understanding the order of prophetic events leading to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by reminding one another that prophecies matter today.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by encouraging believers not to worry about the return of Jesus, because His coming will be unmistakable.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by understanding the value of prophecy for living today. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by understanding that the man of lawlessness will display himself as God, until the Lord Jesus comes and puts an end to the man of lawlessness?

Day Seventeen Remember Today



What did Paul think about the prophecies that he had made concerning the man of lawlessness? Paul thought that the Thessalonians should remember them.

Paul wrote every word of his epistles in the New Testament under the inspiration of God. God breathed out the words of the New Testament, using individual writers with their individual styles. God superintended the process so that every word in the original autographs of Scripture was the product of men moved by the Holy Spirit who spoke for God.

The Thessalonians were disturbed because someone had been telling them that Christ had returned and they had missed His return. Therefore, Paul wanted to remind the Thessalonians about the prophecies that he had already made to them. While Paul was physically present with the Thessalonians, he shared with them prophecies that he later wrote to them. You may ask why Paul would remind them of something he said earlier. Paul wrote those things down so that the saints would have a permanent record of the revelation of God. We call that permanent record the second epistle to the Thessalonians. Because God inspired the words and that epistle, it became a part of the New Testament canon.

God preserved the second epistle to the Thessalonians so that we today could be reminded of the prophecies given to Paul by God thousands of years ago. As we remember the prophecies, we will find courage and strength to look for Jesus coming back. We will not be deceived by people lying about Jesus.

Telling You

1. **<u>Remember</u>**. What did Paul ask the Thessalonians to remember? He asked them to remember the prophecies that he had made concerning the future while he was with them.

2. <u>**God Breathed</u>**. The Holy Spirit moved Paul to speak for God and God breathed out the words of the Bible through men like Paul.</u>

3. **Forget**. When we forget what God said in the Bible, then we fall for the deceptions of the devil.

4. **Deceived**. Some of the Thessalonians had been deceived by men saying that Christ had returned and they had missed His second coming.

5. <u>Wrote</u>. Paul wrote down the prophecies after he had told the Thessalonians in person about the prophecies.

6. <u>**Prophecies**</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we remember what God said in the Bible, including His prophecies about the future.

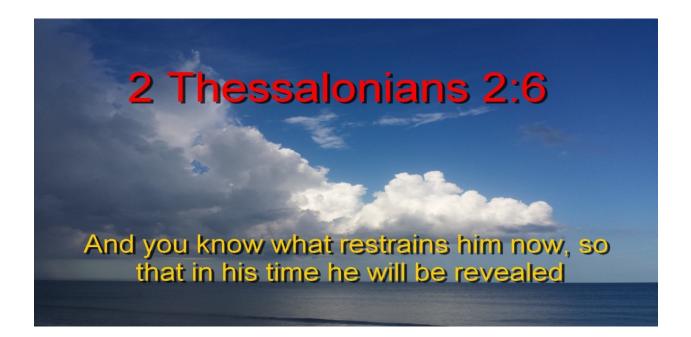
7. <u>Future</u>. We rejoice today because God wrote down prophecies so that we could take courage knowing that the future turns out just as God prophesied.

- We live worthy in the family of God by remembering the things that Paul wrote previously in the New Testament.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by applying what Paul wrote about the future so that we have hope and strength to live in the present, looking forward to the return of Jesus Christ.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by reminding each other of the things God preserved in the New Testament epistles, Gospels, and the other works found in the New Testament, so that we remember what Jesus said and live accordingly, abiding in Him.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by thanking God that He preserved His word in the Bible so that we would benefit from it generation after generation. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by remembering what Paul said about the man of lawlessness and the apostasy to come, knowing that Christ will not return to earth until all those prophecies are fulfilled first?

Day Eighteen Revealed Today



What did the Thessalonians know about the man of lawlessness? They knew what restrained him.

Paul asked them if they remembered what he had prophesied concerning the man of lawlessness. Paul implied that if the Thessalonians remembered what he had said concerning the man of lawlessness, then they would not have been so easily disturbed by people saying that Jesus had returned to earth and they missed His return.

Many people speculate about what the restrainer is. Paul did not define what the restrainer is, but he did give us clues. One clue is that the restrainer was well known to the Thessalonians. Another clue is that the restrainer has been restraining the man of lawlessness for thousands of years and continues to restrain him even now.

Paul looked into the future and reminded the Thessalonians to remember what he had said to them while present with them. In our lives

we know things about the future, because God revealed them in the Bible. Problems arise when we do not remember and take heed to the prophecies in the Bible.

Restrains

1. <u>When</u>? When will the man of lawlessness be revealed? When the restrainer is taken away.

2. <u>Activity</u>. Right now the restrainer actively restrains the man of lawlessness.

3. <u>Man of Lawlessness</u>. The man of lawlessness exercises great spiritual power for evil.

4. <u>Indication</u>. Paul did not indicate who the restrainer was, but indicated that the Thessalonians knew who he was, apparently because Paul had told them before.

5. **<u>Identity</u>**. God did not explicitly reveal the identity of the restrainer.

6. **<u>Restrainer</u>**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we know the restrainer actively restrains the man of lawlessness right now.

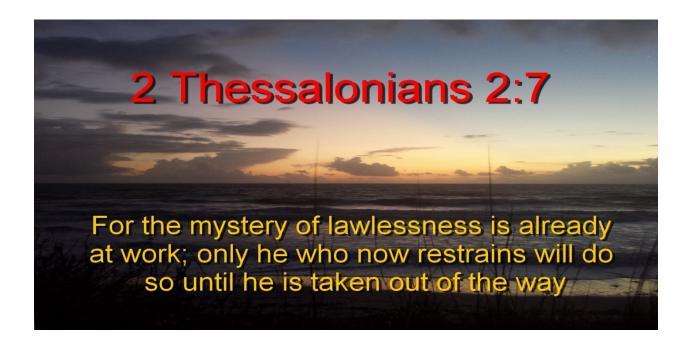
7. <u>Evil</u>. We rejoice today because the man of lawlessness is restrained in his evil ways.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by remembering that the restrainer restrains the man of lawlessness today.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by remembering the prophecies of God so that we are not disturbed by false messages about the return of Christ.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by encouraging one another to remember the prophecies so that we live in confident assurance today.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by understanding how prophecies about the future impact our lives today with strength and confidence. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by standing on the prophecies found in the Bible and remembering the work of the restrainer today?

Day Nineteen Mystery of Lawlessness Today



What is a mystery in the New Testament? A mystery described something that had been hidden in previous generations, but was made known through the apostles and prophets of the New Testament.

Paul said the mystery of lawlessness was already at work in his day. Therefore, we know the mystery of lawlessness spans millennia. It was active in Paul's day and it will continue into the future. The mystery of lawlessness relates directly to the man of lawlessness in his time of power upon the earth.

The power of the man of lawlessness has been restrained for millennia. Paul described the restrainer with the pronoun "he." Therefore, the restrainer appears to be a person or being with the authority from God to limit the powers of the mystery of lawlessness and the man of lawlessness. In the future, the man of lawlessness will no longer be restrained and he will display himself in the Temple as God. In the future the restrainer will be taken out of the way. At that time the man of lawlessness will be able to exercise his powers unrestrained. He will exercise great dominion up over the whole earth. His dominion will come to an abrupt end with a return of Jesus Christ to earth.

At Work

1. <u>Mystery</u>. What is the mystery of lawlessness? In the New Testament a mystery always meant something that was hidden in the past, but now revealed in the New Testament through the apostles and prophets.

2. <u>Active</u>. The mystery of lawlessness was already active in Paul's day.

3. **<u>Restrainer</u>**. Paul referred to the one who restrains the man of lawlessness with the pronoun "he," indicating he is a person.

4. <u>Millennia</u>. We also know that the mystery of lawlessness spans millennia.

5. <u>Lawlessness</u>. When the man of lawlessness takes his seat in the temple, his time will be short and his power will be cut off with the coming of Jesus Christ.

6. <u>**Revealed**</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we understand the mystery of lawlessness because it has been revealed in the New Testament.

7. **<u>Proper Time</u>**. We rejoice today because Jesus understands all mysteries and reveals them at the proper time.

- We live worthy in the family of God by remembering the mystery of lawlessness.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by understanding that the restrainer will be removed in the future.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by praising God that the mystery of lawlessness has been revealed and today he is restrained.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by understanding the mystery of lawlessness. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by worshiping God for His plans which span all ages?

Day Twenty Lawless One Today



Who has the power to slay the man of lawlessness? The Lord Jesus Christ has the power to slay the man of lawlessness.

The man of lawlessness ascends to worldwide domination when the restrainer is taken away. The man of lawlessness reaches the zenith of power when he displays himself in the temple, exalting himself as god and opposing every so-called god and object of worship. The man of lawlessness does signs and wonders and deceives the nations.

God always wins. At just the right time, the Lord Jesus will return to earth and put an end to the man of lawlessness and his evil reign upon the earth. Jesus will come with His armies in flaming fire. He will slay the man of lawlessness with the breath from His mouth. He will put in an end to the worldwide empire of the man of lawlessness.

Paul described the future triumph of Christ to help us understand persecution in this life. Paul indicated that persecution of believers is a sign of the destruction of unbelievers at the proper time. Therefore, believers should take heart that God will deal with everyone who persecutes His children on this earth in due time.

End

1. **<u>Reign</u>**. Who will end the reign of the lawless one? The Lord Jesus will end his reign.

2. **Power**. When the restrainer is taken away, the man of lawlessness will take his place in the temple and exert his power over the whole world.

3. <u>Days</u>. Unless those days were cut short, no flesh would have survived.

4. <u>Lawlessness</u>. The Lord Jesus will return to Earth and slay the man of lawlessness with the breath of His mouth.

5. **<u>Supernatural</u>**. When the restrainer is taken away, the lawless one will exercise supernatural power over the world, until Jesus returns.

6. <u>Future</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we understand the power of evil at work in the world today, knowing that in the future it will get worse for a time.

7. <u>Jesus Triumphs</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus triumphs over all His enemies.

- We live worthy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus will return to earth at the right time.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by understanding that Jesus has all power over the man of lawlessness.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by encouraging one another to trust in the power of Jesus Christ to triumph over all evil and all persecution.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to slay His enemies at the proper time. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by remembering that Jesus holds our future in His mighty hands?

Day Twenty One False Wonders Today



How will the man of lawlessness exercise world domination? He will come in accord with the activity of Satan.

Paul revealed the activity of Satan. The man of lawlessness will exercise all power and signs and false wonders. He will do those things through the power of the devil.

The man of lawlessness will exercise world power because the devil empowers him and deceives people using signs and wonders. Therefore, when people display signs and wonders, do not automatically conclude they are from God. Many evil beings have supernatural powers.

God used signs and wonders to authenticate the ministries of His chosen messengers. Some of those signs and wonders were also great blessings to the people who received them. Other signs indicated great destruction was coming.

Activity of Satan

1. <u>Man of Lawlessness</u>. Will the man of lawlessness have supernatural powers? He will display all power and signs and false wonders.

2. <u>Supernatural Power</u>. The man of lawlessness will rule with supernatural power.

3. <u>Signs and False Wonders</u>. The man of lawlessness will rule displaying signs and false wonders.

4. **Deceive**. The man of lawlessness will deceive even the saints, if possible.

5. <u>Activity of Satan</u>. The man of lawlessness will come with the activity of satan.

6. <u>**Production**</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we know that the activity of satan in the man of lawlessness produces power, signs, and false wonders.

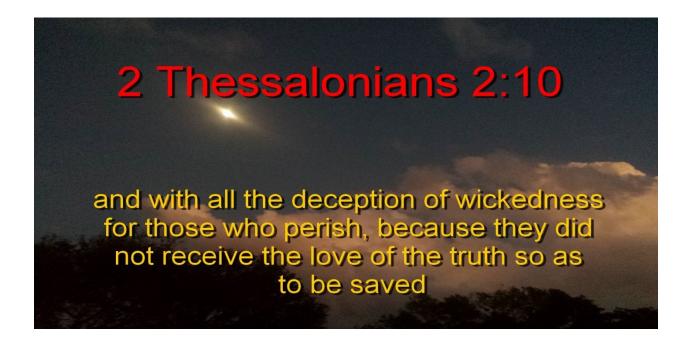
7. <u>Lies</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus told us what would happen before it comes to pass, so that we would never be deceived by lies about the future.

- We live worthy in the family of God by understanding that the man of lawlessness will manifest the activity of satan.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by understanding that evil beings will do signs and wonders.
- > We live together worthy in the family of God by guarding against the deception of the devil by evaluating every sign and every wonder by the Scriptures.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by evaluating all signs and wonders by the Scriptures, to see if we are witnessing the power of God or the power of the devil. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by looking forward to the day when the activity of the devil on earth will be brought to an abrupt end through the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Day Twenty Two Love of the Truth Today



How does the man of lawlessness use wickedness to achieve his own ends? The man of lawlessness deceives people with wickedness.

The man of lawlessness takes his seat in the temple and displays himself as God. He opposes all gods, exalting himself above every object of worship. He displays powers and signs, working according to the activity of the devil. He seeks worldwide domination, achieves it, and knows that his time will be cut short by the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with the armies of heaven in flaming fire.

When Jesus returns to earth, He will slay the man of lawlessness with the breath of His lips. His reign will come to an abrupt end through the stone smashing his empire to bits. The God of heaven will establish the kingdom of God upon earth and it will put an end to all other kingdoms. The Lord Jesus Christ will sit on the glorious throne of David on earth in Jerusalem and reign for a thousand years. Saints will not be deceived by the man of lawlessness. They have a love of the truth so as to be saved. They rest in the glories of the Lamb even as the world around them succumbs to the evil of the man of lawlessness. Saints look forward to Jesus setting His feet upon the Mount of Olives and establishing His millennial reign.

Be Saved

1. <u>**Perish**</u>. Why do the people who have been deceived perish? They perish because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

2. <u>Nations</u>. When the man of lawlessness exercises unrestrained power, he will deceive the nations.

3. **Deceived**. The people deceived by the man of lawlessness will certainly perish.

4. <u>Worship Demanded</u>. The man of lawlessness demands that everyone worship him as god.

5. <u>**Belief**</u>. Because the nations have been deceived, many of them actually believe he is god, because of his power and the signs he performs.

6. <u>Saints</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that saints received the love of the truth so as to be saved.

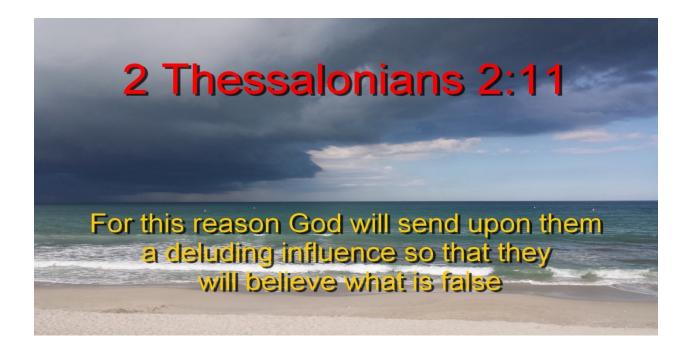
7. <u>Salvation</u>. We rejoice today because salvation always rests upon the truth and Jesus said He is the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Him.

- We live worthy in the family of God by loving the truth so as to be saved.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by enjoying the salvation Jesus bestowed upon us by the grace of God.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by living today in the joy of the Holy Spirit, knowing the man of lawlessness will be revealed in the future and the entire world will lie within his power of evil and destruction.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by thanking God we love the truth so as to be saved. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by encouraging other people to love the truth so as be saved?

Day Twenty Three Deluding Influence Today



What is a deluding influence sent from God? In the future when people follow the man of lawlessness, they will believe his lies because God has sent a deluding influence upon them.

The man of lawlessness deceives people by displaying his power and signs, according to the activity of the devil. When the restrainer is taken away, the man of lawlessness will be revealed and he will do great evil upon the earth. He will entice the nations to follow him and they will. He will feed them lies and they will eat them with greed.

The people who follow the man of lawlessness believe what is false. They believe lies in the deception flowing from the man of lawlessness in his empire. He operates in the spiritual realm and the physical realm to make people worship him. He displays himself in the Temple as God and exalts himself above every so-called god. While many people flock to him, enthralled by his power, God sends a deluding influence upon them so that they will believe a lie. The devil often uses imposters to do his will and deceive people. While the man of lawlessness poses as God, he is not God and will never be God. God will not share His glory with another.

Believe what is False

1. **<u>Reject Truth</u>**. When people do not receive the love of truth so as to be saved, what does God do? God sends a deluding influence upon them.

2. <u>God's Action</u>. When people reject Jesus Christ as Savior and believe the lies of the man of lawlessness, God takes action.

3. **Deluding Influence**. Although God never tempts anyone, He will send a deluding influence upon all those people who follow the man of lawlessness.

4. **Deception and Lies**. People will embrace the deception and lies of the man of lawlessness first and then God will send a deluding influence upon them.

5. <u>Seven Years</u>. During the future Tribulation lasting seven years, the man of lawlessness deceives the nations and exercises great power.

6. <u>**Rejected God**</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we understand that God can send a deluding influence up on people who first reject Him.

7. <u>**Tribulation**</u>. We rejoice today because we love the truth so as to be saved and look forward to being in heaven with Jesus while the tribulation rages on Earth.

- We live worthy in the family of God by recognizing the dangers of believing a lie.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by thanking God that He has revealed to us the deluding influence He will send upon the followers of the man of lawlessness when he takes power in the future.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by worshiping God because He has revealed the future to us so that we may rejoice in the love of Jesus Christ and share that love with people heading towards deception and destruction in the future.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by remembering the deluding influence God will send upon the followers of the man of lawlessness in the future. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by standing firmly upon the eternal truths of God found in the Bible?

Day Twenty Four Wickedness Today



What happens when you take pleasure in wickedness? For the followers of the man of lawlessness God sent a deluding influence upon them in order that they may all be judged.

When the man of lawlessness begins his reign upon the earth, after the restrainer has been taken away, he displays great power and deceives the nations. God also has plans to bring judgment upon the whole earth for its wickedness. We already see today the nations of the world opposing the will of God by embracing all types of immorality, impurity, and all kinds of evil behavior.

God sends a deluding influence upon the followers of the man of lawlessness to accomplish His goals. The followers believe a lie and reject the love of the truth so as to be saved. Then God sends a deluding influence upon them, because of their unbelief and rebellion against God. God takes those steps because He intends to bring judgment upon the followers of the man of lawlessness.

Judged

1. <u>**Delusion**</u>. Why did God send a deluding influence upon the followers of the man of lawlessness? God sent a deluding influence upon them so that they may be judged.

2. <u>Spiritual</u>. God laid out a spiritual chain of events that take place in the people who follow the man of lawlessness.

3. <u>No Love of Truth</u>. They did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

4. <u>Believe Falsehood</u>. God sent a deluding influence upon them so that they would believe what is false.

5. <u>Pleasure in Wickedness</u>. God intended to judge them because they did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

6. <u>Future Steps</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we know God takes steps in the future to bring judgment upon people who take pleasure in wickedness.

7. <u>We Love Truth</u>. We rejoice today because we have a love of the truth that led us to salvation, all as a gift of God.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by worshiping God because He loves righteousness and imputes His righteousness to us through Christ.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by warning people of the righteous judgment of God coming upon all the nations in due time.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by standing with one another in the grace of God, having been justified by faith.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by thanking God that we have passed out of judgment into life at the moment of salvation. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by warning unbelievers whom you love of the certain judgment of God coming upon all people who take pleasure in wickedness?

Day Twenty Five Give Thanks Today



Why should we give thanks for other believers? We should give thanks to God because He has chosen them from the beginning for salvation.

Paul developed serious theological themes with the Thessalonians. Not only did he discuss prophecies about the future, but he devoted time to his prayer life and explaining it to the Thessalonians. Paul told churches the things he prayed for them. Even when he was imprisoned, Paul prayed for the churches.

Paul described how salvation works. Paul indicated that God chose the Thessalonians from the beginning for salvation. In Ephesians, Paul said they were predestined to adoption into the family of God. Paul described election as part of God's plan of salvation. Then Paul described salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Sanctification describes the process of making people holy. The process starts at the moment of salvation where the Holy Spirit cleanses the

believer and regenerates the believer. Paul already described that saints love the truth so as to be saved. The Holy Spirit helps us believe the truth.

Chosen You

1. **Salvation**. For what did God choose us? God chose us for salvation.

2. <u>Believers</u>. Paul told us we should give thanks to God for other believers.

3. **<u>Beginning</u>**. Paul gave thanks for the Thessalonians because God chose them from the beginning for salvation.

4. <u>Sanctification</u>. God saved the Thessalonians through sanctification by the Holy Spirit and faith in the truth.

5. <u>Faith</u>. Paul maintained a close relationship with the Thessalonians, built upon their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

6. **<u>Thanksgiving</u>**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we thank God for the brethren, beloved by the Lord.

7. <u>**Chosen</u>**. We rejoice today because God chose us from the beginning for salvation.</u>

- We live worthy in the family of God by delighting in the truth that God chose us for salvation.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by understanding that the Holy Spirit sanctified us as part of salvation.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by thanking God for the other believers that God chose for salvation.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by thanking God for choosing us to be in the family of God. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by living a sanctified life by the power the Holy Spirit?

Day Twenty Six He Called You Today



Why did God call the Thessalonians to Himself? God called the Thessalonians to Himself so that they might gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul explained that God chose us for salvation before the beginning. Paul revealed very deep theology in very simple words. God called us to Himself for salvation. Such knowledge should provide comfort and strength to the Thessalonians and to us. We did not choose God, but God chose us while we were dead in our trespasses and sins.

God called us so that we may gain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. His glory comes with Him into our lives at the moment of salvation. We live glorious lives by the power of God dwelling within us. We shine as the objects of God's love.

While God will never share His glory with another, we do gain His glory. We do not take His glory, we receive His glory. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know the glory of God was in them and everyone knew it.

Gain the Glory

1. <u>**Called</u>**. Why did God call the Thessalonians? God called the Thessalonians so that they would gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.</u>

2. <u>Specific Prayers</u>. Paul prayed very specific prayers for the Thessalonians.

3. <u>**Chosen**</u>. Paul first explained that God had chosen the Thessalonians from the beginning for sanctification.

4. <u>Sanctification</u>. Then Paul explained that the Holy Spirit sanctifies the believer.

5. <u>Faith</u>. Then Paul explained that through faith in the truth we have salvation.

6. <u>Glory</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that God called us so that we would gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

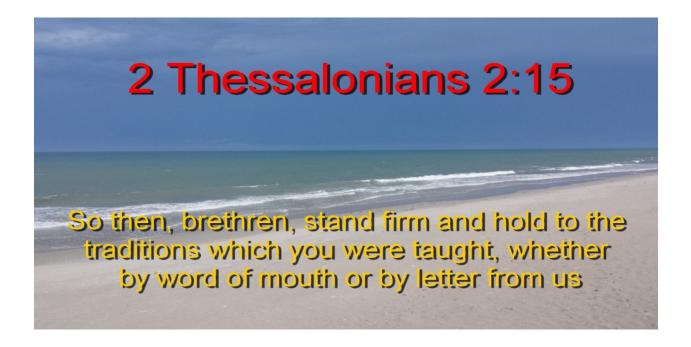
7. **Daily**. We rejoice today because we have gained the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives and we shine with His glory every day.

- We live worthy in the family of God by remembering that God chose us for salvation.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by loving the people who shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with us.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by worshiping God because we have gained the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by loving God more because He chose us for salvation. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by delighting in the knowledge that you have gained the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Day Twenty Seven Stand Firm Today



What is the relationship between standing firm and holding fast? Paul commanded the Thessalonians to stand firm and hold fast to the traditions.

Paul meant that the Thessalonians should stand firm in the faith delivered to the saints. Because they know that the man of lawlessness must be revealed before Christ returns, they can stand fast in the knowledge delivered to them by Paul.

Paul explained that the traditions he had in mind were the ones that he delivered by word-of-mouth or by a letter which he had written. Imposters had come along and tried to deceive the Thessalonians about the return of Christ. They claimed that Christ had returned and the Thessalonians had missed it. Paul reminded them that holding fast to the traditions would be a strong bulwark against imposters trying to mislead them.

God delivered the New Testament to us so that we too would not be deceived. Just as people attacked the Thessalonians, so also people attack the saints today by making all kind of claims of Christ and His return. We hold fast to the New Testament books because they explain the past, present, and future.

You Were Taught

1. <u>Stand Firm</u>. What does Paul want the Thessalonians to do? Paul wants them to stand firm.

2. <u>Hold To</u>. Paul specifically wanted them to stand firm, holding to the traditions he had delivered to them.

3. <u>**Traditions**</u>. The traditions Paul is talking about are the words he received by revelation from God.

4. <u>Mysteries</u>. As an apostle of Jesus Christ, Paul received mysteries concerning the Christian faith.

5. **<u>Revealed</u>**. God revealed the mysteries to the apostles and prophets of the New Testament Church.

6. <u>**Recorded**</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we have received the traditions recorded in the Bible for our edification.

7. **<u>Preserved</u>**. We rejoice today because God took measures to be sure His word has been preserved for thousands of years.

- We live worthy in the family of God by standing firm in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by holding to the traditions delivered to the saints contained in the New Testament.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by encouraging one another to read the Bible and learn the truths about the future that keep us strong in the present.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by standing firm and holding to the traditions described in the New Testament. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by learning more about the Bible so that you will know more about the future that helps you stand firm in the present?

Day Twenty Eight Eternal Comfort Today



What has God given to us to help us through tribulations and persecutions? God our Father has given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace.

Paul understood tribulations and afflictions in this life. He had suffered imprisonment many times, beatings, and many other afflictions. The Thessalonians were suffering from tribulations and afflictions in their lives, particularly from the Jewish community at Thessalonica. Those same Jews had given Paul a very bad time and chased after him, even after he left their city.

God described the future as a time of great tribulation and affliction under the reign of the man of lawlessness. Paul described how the Lord Jesus Christ would bring an end of the reign of the man of lawlessness on earth. Paul wove that information about the future into his tapestry of living life today to the glory of God. God wants us to know that Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father care about us, comfort us, and provide grace and hope for the future.

Good Hope

1. <u>**Given</u>**. What has our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father given to the saints? They have given us eternal comfort and good hope.</u>

2. <u>**Reminded**</u>. As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to hold fast and stand firm, he also reminded the Thessalonians that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father love them.

3. <u>Love</u>. Every believer needs to be reminded that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father love us all the time.

4. <u>Eternal Comfort</u>. Every believer also needs to hear that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father have given us eternal comfort.

5. <u>**Grace**</u>. Every believer also needs to hear that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father have given all things to us by grace.

6. **<u>Daily</u>**. Living worthy in the family of God means that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father care about us each day with deep love.

7. **<u>Hope</u>**. We rejoice today because God has given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by remembering that God our Father has provided us eternal comfort and hope by grace.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by embracing the great truths about God loving us, comforting us, and giving us hope.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father for the great gifts they have bestowed upon us, including eternal comfort and hope.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by rejoicing in the eternal comfort and hope God provides to us by grace. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by thanking God for His grace that builds comfort, strength, and hope in our lives during times of tribulation and distress?

Day Twenty Nine Comfort and Strength Today



How does God provide daily strength for living? God strengthens our heart in every good work and word.

The Thessalonians had been disturbed by messages that the Lord Jesus Christ had returned to earth and they had missed His appearance. Paul wrote to them and reminded them that the man of lawlessness must be revealed before Christ would return to earth. The man of lawlessness would take his seat in the temple and display himself as god, for the whole world to notice and bow in forced worship of him.

Paul loved the Thessalonians and wanted to comfort them. Paul did not offer them his comfort alone, but he explained how the comfort of God works. Both our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father have eternal love for the family of God. Therefore, Paul reminded the Thessalonians of the eternal comfort of God and how God comforts our hearts in every good work and word. Paul meant that as we do good works and speak good words for God, God is eternal comfort.

Good Work and Word

1. <u>**Help**</u>. How does God help us in every good work and word? God comforts and strengthens our hearts in every good work and word.

2. <u>**Grace**</u>. Paul declared that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father love us and give us eternal comfort and good hope by grace.

3. <u>Strength</u>. Paul further revealed that God comforts and strengthens our hearts in every good work and word which we do.

4. **<u>Beforehand</u>**. We are the workmanship of God, created for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we would walk in them.

5. <u>**Bad Times**</u>. Not only do we look forward to eternal comfort, but God also provides comfort right now, even in times of tribulation and distress, as we do good works and speak good words.

6. <u>Good Works</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we count upon God to strengthen our hearts in every good work and word.

7. <u>Eternal Comfort</u>. We rejoice today because God not only provides eternal comfort, but also strengthens our hearts every day.

- We live worthy in the family of God by remembering that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father comfort our hearts.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by trusting God for His loving support during times of tribulation and distress.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by praising God for His loving care as He strengthens our hearts as we speak for Him with good words and do good works.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by enjoying the eternal comfort of God helping us through difficult times. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by speaking good words and doing good works even during difficult times?

3 Worthy of the Word of the Lord

Paul sought the prayers of the Thessalonians for the ministry team. Paul wanted them to pray that the word of the Lord would spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did with them. Paul often requested that the people who had been converted by the Gospel of Jesus Christ now support the ministry team with prayer and contributions.

Paul reminded the Thessalonians that the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect them from the evil one. Paul declared his great confidence in the Lord concerning the Thessalonians. Paul assured the Thessalonians that they were doing well and will continue to follow the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ delivered by the ministry team. Paul prayed that the Lord would direct their hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ. Paul then began to discuss church discipline, because some saints at Thessalonica were not following the commands of God delivered by the ministry team. Paul commanded the brethren in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul made it plain that his words came directly from the Lord Jesus Christ and should be obeyed as such. Paul commanded the Thessalonians to stay away from every brother who leads an unruly life, not according to the tradition which they received from the ministry team. The Thessalonians knew about the example of the ministry team and how the ministry team never acted in an undisciplined manner among them. The ministry team did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it because they labored and suffered hardship both day and night so that they would not be a burden to the Thessalonians. The ministry team also provided an excellent example of hard work for the Thessalonians to follow and did so deliberately. Paul explained that the ministry team had the right to seek contributions from the Thessalonians for their ministry work, but did not do so to provide a model for the Thessalonians to follow as an example of hard work.

When the ministry team lived with the Thessalonians, they gave the order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. The ministry team had heard that some of the Thessalonians were leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Paul commanded and exhorted such people to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. Paul encouraged the Thessalonians by reminding them not to grow weary of doing good.

Paul was very concerned about church discipline and hard work. Paul commanded the Thessalonians to take special note of every person who did not obey the instructions in this letter to the Thessalonians, for the purpose of putting them to shame. Even so, the Thessalonians were not to regard that person as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Paul closed his letter with the theology of peace in the midst of tribulation. Paul prayed that the Lord of peace Himself would continually grant peace to the Thessalonians in every circumstance. Paul did not promise the Thessalonians they would be immediately delivered from tribulation, but he did pray that they would have peace from the Lord of peace as they underwent tribulation. Paul also prayed that the Lord would be with all of them, implying that the presence of the Lord Jesus in their lives would sustain them with peace from the Lord of peace.

Paul concluded his letter by taking steps to be sure that others could not counterfeit his letter and so upset the Thessalonians and others with false doctrine, claiming Paul wrote the counterfeit letter. Paul said that he wrote the greeting with his own hand, and that is a distinguishing mark in every letter he writes. Paul then blessed the Thessalonians: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. The ministry team loved the Thessalonians and that love formed a close spiritual friendship between them. Even when the ministry team was absent in body, their spirit was present with the Thessalonians.

Day Thirty Pray for Us Today



What did Paul put at the top of his prayer request to the Thessalonians? He requested prayer that the word of the Lord would spread rapidly and be glorified.

Paul reminded the Thessalonians that they received the Gospel of Jesus Christ with open hearts. The word of God is glorified when people receive Jesus as Savior. The Thessalonians received Jesus as Savior and so glorified God.

Paul followed a familiar plan. He preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in new areas, often starting at the synagogue in a particular place. At Thessalonica, Paul preached in the synagogue and the Jews were very angry with him. Yet, some people received Jesus as Savior. Those people at Thessalonica who received Jesus as Savior became faithful servants of God. They supported Paul in his work for the Lord Jesus. They became partakers of his ministry for the Lord Jesus. What am I doing to glorify the Lord Jesus?

Spread Rapidly

1. **<u>Prayer</u>**. As Paul concluded the epistle to the Thessalonians, for what did he seek prayer? He sought prayer that the word of God would spread rapidly and be glorified.

2. **Focus**. Paul focused upon sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. <u>**Command</u>**. He commanded prayers for that purpose from people who had been converted by that Gospel of Jesus Christ.</u>

4. <u>**Gospel**</u>. Therefore, Paul turned to the Thessalonians and asked them to pray that the Gospel of Jesus Christ would spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did with them.

5. <u>Share</u>. All believers have been commanded to share the word of the Lord so that it spreads rapidly and will be glorified.

6. **<u>Spread</u>**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we all participate in spreading the word of the Lord.

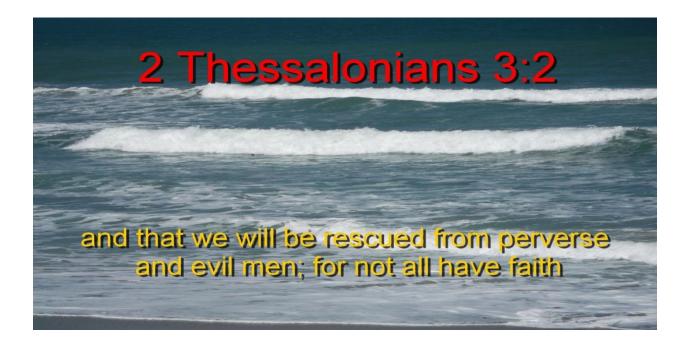
7. **<u>Support</u>**. We rejoice today because we can support saints who travel through distant lands, sharing the word of God.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by supporting the ministry of people who preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to us.
- ➢ We live more worthy in the family of God by making disciples who will support the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- > We live together worthy in the family of God by praying for people who labor to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ rapidly so that the word of God may be glorified.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by praying for those people who lead us to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ so the word of God may be glorified?

Day Thirty One Rescued Today



Do strong believers need to be rescued? Strong men like Paul in the ministry team requested prayer that they would be rescued from perverse and evil men.

Paul requested prayer that the ministry team and the Thessalonians would be rescued from perverse and evil men. Paul phrased his prayer request looking for rescue. Rescue implied that they had already fallen into trouble. As daily ministers for Christ, Paul and the ministry team faced constant opposition both physical and spiritual.

Daily ministry takes place in an environment of perverse and evil men. Not only must every daily minister wear the armor of God, they must go into daily battle lifted up by the prayers of the saints. Those prayers should focus upon rescue from perverse and evil men. By faith in Christ we are more than conquerors. Even so, we must rely upon the prayers of the saints for daily ministry.

Not All Have Faith

1. **<u>Rescued</u>**. Why did Paul seek prayer to be rescued? Paul requested prayer for the whole ministry team and for the Thessalonians to be rescued from perverse and evil men.

2. **Faithless People**. Paul stated that not all men have faith.

3. <u>Evil Men</u>. The perverse and evil men persecute and afflict the Thessalonians and everyone who does God's will.

4. <u>**Perverse Men**</u>. Paul indicated that the way to be rescued from perverse and evil men is to seek the prayers of other saints.

5. **Saints**. We should never undervalue the prayers of saints.

6. <u>Face the World</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we face a world of evil men.

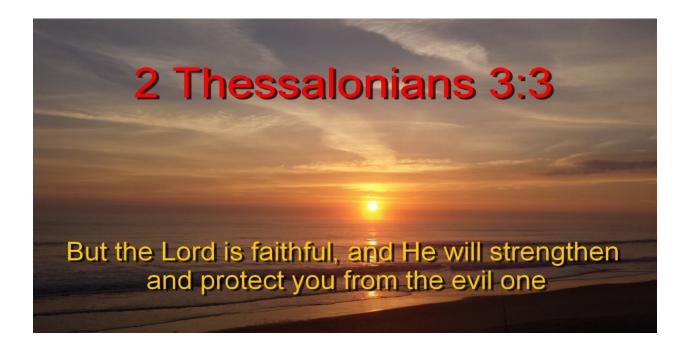
7. <u>**Prayers Help**</u>. We rejoice today because the prayers of the saints help us to be rescued from perverse an evil men.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by praying for the saints, especially when they seek our prayers for specific prayer requests.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by lifting up daily ministers who face perverse and evil men every day.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by praying that each of us would be rescued from perverse and evil men, for not all have faith.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by praying for daily ministers to be rescued from perverse and evil men. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by praying for the people who ask you to pray for them?

Day Thirty Two Faithful Today



What did Paul expect the Lord to do for the Thessalonians? Paul expected the Lord to strengthen and protect them from the evil one.

Paul called the Lord faithful. When people face trials and tribulations, they often doubt the faithfulness of God. Some people ask why this happened to me. When people question the faithfulness of God, they often do not remember that God has a purpose for our lives as we go through trials and tribulations. In fact we should exult in our tribulations because it ultimately produces proven character and endurance.

Paul also linked the faithfulness of God with the strength of God. We can count on God to strengthen us so that we can get through every trial and tribulation that comes our way. God has all the strength we need to get through every tribulation and every trial.

Paul also talked about protecting us. Just because we go through tribulations and afflictions does not mean that God no longer protects us.

On the contrary, God often protects us through the tribulations and afflictions we endure.

Strengthen and Protect

1. <u>**Help**</u>. How does God's faithfulness help us in our struggle against the evil one? God strengthens and protects saints from the evil one.

2. **Power**. Because we do not struggle against flesh and blood, we must have spiritual power to help us.

3. **<u>Supreme</u>**. As omnipotent God, the Lord Jesus offers supreme help in all spiritual matters.

4. <u>**Protection**</u>. The Lord Jesus has promised to strengthen and protect us from the evil one.

5. <u>Evil One</u>. We know the evil one roams about, seeking whom he may devour.

6. <u>Jesus' Strength</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we count upon the Lord Jesus to strengthen us and protect us from the evil one.

7. <u>**Untouched**</u>. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus keeps the evil one from touching us.

- We live worthy in the family of God by counting upon God to strengthen and protect us.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by counting upon God's faithfulness to protect us from the evil one.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by sharing our testimony about how God has protected us and strengthened us because He is faithful.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by trusting the faithfulness of the Lord to strengthen us and protect us from the evil one. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by trusting the faithfulness of the Lord today?

Day Thirty Three Continue Today



Why did Paul have confidence in the Thessalonians? Paul had confidence in the Thessalonians because they obeyed his commands.

As an apostle of Jesus Christ, Paul received revelations from God. He wrote those revelations down in the New Testament. God inspired the letters he wrote to the churches, which we have in the New Testament. In those letters Paul often described the saints he wrote to. Paul said many nice things about the Thessalonians.

Paul said he had confidence in the Thessalonians. Paul was talking about spiritual obedience. Paul explained why he had such confidence in the Thessalonians. The Thessalonians obeyed his commands in the past and in the present. Therefore, Paul had confidence that the Thessalonians would obey his commands.

Confidence

1. <u>**Confident**</u>. What confidence did Paul have in the Thessalonians? Paul was confident that the Thessalonians would obey his commands.

2. **<u>Obedience</u>**. Paul built that confidence upon the past and present obedience of the Thessalonians.

3. <u>**Commanded</u>**. As the spiritual father of the Thessalonians, in the sense that he shared the Gospel with them and they believed, Paul gave them commands from the Lord.</u>

4. <u>Spiritual Fathers</u>. Saints need to hear from their spiritual fathers that their obedience builds confidence in them.

5. <u>Shared Faith</u>. Many saints have never shared their faith with anybody, and so have no spiritual children.

6. <u>**Pattern**</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we build confidence in our obedience to Christ by a pattern of obeying Christ in the past and in the present.

7. <u>**Build**</u>. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus strengthens and protects us so that we will obey Him and build the confidence of others that His power works in our lives.

- ➢ We live worthy in the family of God by obeying the commands of God.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by building confidence in other saints that we keep the commands of God.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by letting faithful saints know that we have confidence in them.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by obeying the commands of God. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by building confidence in others that you obey the commands of God?

Day Thirty Four Direct Today



What direction does the Lord provide for our lives? The Lord Jesus directs our hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

Many people seek direction from God. They hope to find God's plan for their life and they do well to seek help from God. Paul, however, prayed that the Lord would direct the heart of the Thessalonians into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

Paul prayed marvelous prayers for the churches. In this case, Paul prayed that the Lord would direct the hearts of the Thessalonians into the love of God. Paul meant that God causes us to love Him more. God commands us to love Him with all our hearts.

Paul also prayed that the Lord would direct the hearts of the Thessalonians into the steadfastness of Christ. Paul desired for the Thessalonians to stand firm in Christ. Although the Thessalonians faced intense suffering and persecution, Paul still wanted them to stand firm. The only way to stand firm is to stand with Jesus Christ and have our hearts fastened upon Him.

Your Hearts

1. <u>**Paul's Prayer</u>**. Why did Paul pray for the hearts of the Thessalonians? He prayed for their hearts because he wanted those hearts directed into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.</u>

2. <u>**Targeted**</u>. Paul outlined two targets for directing the heart.

3. <u>**Directed</u>**. Paul wanted the hearts of the Thessalonians directed into the love of God, where they would understand and feel the love of God in their hearts.</u>

4. <u>Safe and Secure</u>. Paul also wanted the hearts of the Thessalonians directed into the steadfastness of Christ, where their hearts would cause them to stand safe and secure in the steadfastness of Christ.

5. <u>Hearts</u>. Paul prayed very specific prayers for the Thessalonians and their hearts.

6. <u>Specific Prayers</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we, too, should pray very specific prayers for the saints we know and their hearts.

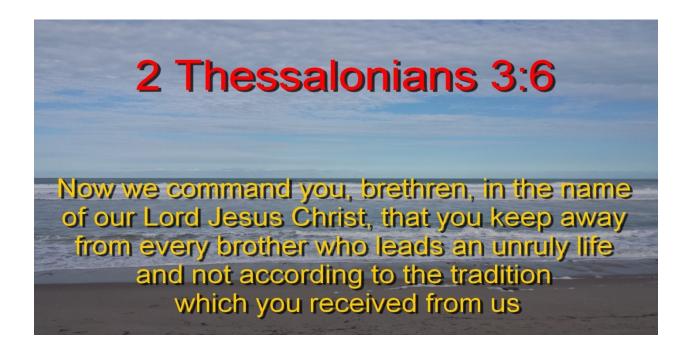
7. <u>Steadfast</u>. We rejoice today because our hearts stand in the love of God and in the steadfastness of Christ.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by praying specific prayers for our friends in Christ.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by praying the Lord would direct our hearts.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by praying that the Lord would direct the hearts of our friends in the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by praying very specific prayers for our friends and their hearts. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by praying that the Lord will direct the hearts of your loved ones in Christ into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ?

Day Thirty Five Keep Away Today



How should saints treat every brother who leads an unruly life? God commanded the saints to keep away from that brother.

Paul commanded the Thessalonians in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to stay away from brothers who lead an unruly life. The Thessalonians had been disturbed by reports that the Lord Jesus had returned to earth and they had missed out. Paul explained that the Lord Jesus Christ would not return until after the man of lawlessness was revealed. Therefore, the Thessalonians should realize that the Lord Jesus had not come.

Some of the saints at Thessalonica had begun to lead unruly lives, not according to the tradition which they received from the ministry team. At times, church leaders must confront unruly behavior. One way they confront unruly saints is to direct the church to keep away from that unruly brother. Paul provided very direct methods for opposing unruly behavior and rebellion against the tradition which the Thessalonians received from the ministry team. Paul described the work of the ministry team as laboring night and day so that they would not be a burden to anyone. The ministry team set an example of hard work for all the saints. In our lives today we too should keep away from unruly brothers. Paul gave strict orders in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to separate from those unruly brothers.

Unruly Life

1. <u>**Command</u>**. Should you ever keep away from another Christian? Paul commanded the Thessalonians to keep away from any brother leading an unruly life.</u>

2. <u>Church Discipline</u>. The New Testament describes a wide pattern of church discipline.

3. **Brother**. Believers must keep away from brethren leading an unruly life so that the brother will leave the unruly life.

4. <u>Unruly</u>. Paul also said that an unruly life is not according to the tradition which the Thessalonians received from the ministry team.

5. <u>Encourage Change</u>. Therefore, saints must take action to encourage the unruly saints to change their ways.

6. <u>Keep Away</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we keep away from the brother leading an unruly life.

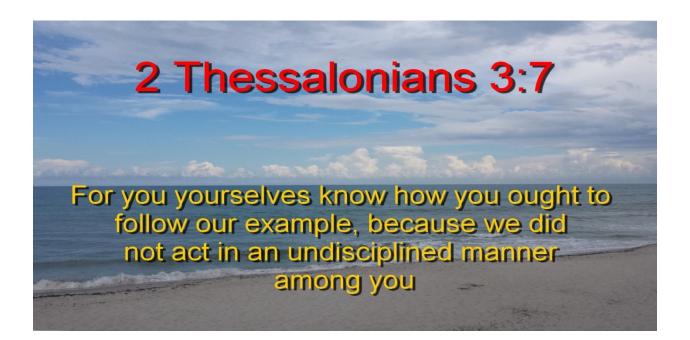
7. <u>**Tradition from God**</u>. We rejoice today because we hold fast to the tradition received from God in the New Testament.

- We live worthy in the family of God by following the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by keeping away from unruly brothers who do not keep the tradition received from the apostles.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by joining together to keep away from unruly brothers in the congregation.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by keeping away from unruly brothers. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by keeping away from brothers who do not keep the tradition received from the apostles through the New Testament?

Day Thirty Six Our Example Today



What example did Paul set for the Thessalonians? Paul set the example of paying for his own food.

Some of the Thessalonians were living an unruly life. Paul explained that the Thessalonians should keep away from the unruly brother. This mild form of church discipline encourages the unruly brother to work for his own food and to stop being a burden to others.

The ministry team, with labor and hardship, kept working night and day. Although they had every right to be supported by those who benefited from the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they laid aside that right. In fact, the ministry team worked diligently to support themselves.

The ministry team set a great example for the Thessalonians, particularly those leading an unruly life. They did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it. They established a tradition of holiness and hard work, working night and day to support themselves and to continue the ministry.

The ministry team worked hard for the sake of Jesus Christ and the Thessalonians. The ministry team came to lift up and not to weigh down. By their own work, they were able to continue the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Undisciplined

1. <u>**Disciplined Life**</u>. Did Paul live an undisciplined life before the Thessalonians? Paul said the Thessalonians knew that he did not live an undisciplined life among them.

2. <u>**Daily**</u>. Paul and the entire ministry team set an example for the Thessalonians regarding daily living with discipline.

3. <u>Walk</u>. The ministry team walked the same way that they talked.

4. **Important**. Paul emphasized the importance of setting a good example for all disciples.

5. **Example**. Paul said that the Thessalonians knew about his example and so they should follow his example.

6. <u>Follow</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we set a good example for others to follow.

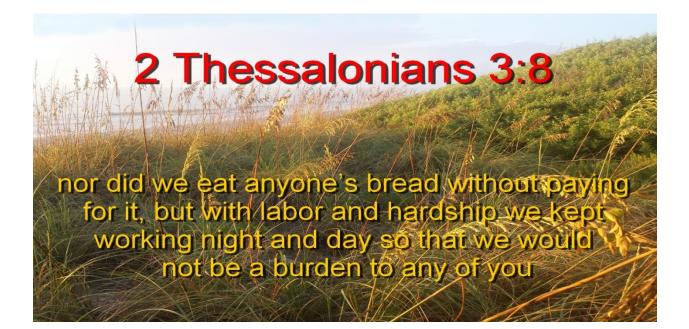
7. <u>Glorify God</u>. We rejoice today because God wants us to live a disciplined life to glorify Him.

- We live worthy in the family of God by setting a good example for other saints to follow.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by leading a disciplined life and working hard for our own bread.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by setting a good example of hard work so that we not only feed ourselves, but also have an abundance to share with others.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by setting a good example of a disciplined life, paying for our own bread. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by leading a disciplined life?

Day Thirty Seven Working Today



What example did Paul set for the Thessalonians? Paul set the example of paying for his own food.

Some of the Thessalonians were living an unruly life. Paul explained that the Thessalonians should keep away from the unruly brother. This mild form of church discipline encourages the unruly brother to work for his own food and to stop being a burden to others.

The ministry team, with labor and hardship, kept working night and day. Although they had every right to be supported by those who benefitted from the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they laid aside that right. In fact, the ministry team worked diligently to support themselves.

The ministry team set a great example for the Thessalonians, particularly those leading an unruly life. They did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it. They established a tradition of holiness and hard work, working night and day to support themselves and to continue the ministry. The ministry team worked hard for the sake of Jesus Christ and the Thessalonians. The ministry team came to lift up and not to weigh down. By their own work, they were able to continue the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paying

1. <u>**Team Worked</u>**. Why did the ministry team work night and day? They worked night and day not to be a burden to anyone.</u>

2. <u>**Team Paid**</u>. In contrast to the unruly brethren, the ministry team paid for their own bread.

3. **<u>Bread</u>**. They did not accept bread from anyone without paying for it first.

4. **Example**. The ministry team set an example for all of the Thessalonians to follow when it came to hard work.

5. **Labored**. The ministry team worked with labor and hardship for the sake of the Thessalonians.

6. <u>Not a Burden</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we work so that we are not a burden to others.

7. <u>**God Supplies**</u>. We rejoice today because God supplies all of our needs through the riches of Christ Jesus.

- We live worthy in the family of God by working to support ourselves so that we are not a burden to anyone.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by setting an example of hard work for other believers to follow.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by not eating bread which we did not earn with our own hard work.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by working hard to support ourselves. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by not being a burden to others and draining their financial resources?

Day Thirty Eight The Right Today



Why did the ministry team give up its right to receive financial support from the Thessalonians? The ministry team gave up that right to offer themselves as a model for the Thessalonians to follow.

Paul and the other members of the ministry team had the right to receive support from other believers where they ministered to them. While Paul was living among them, he ate his own bread and paid for it. Paul taught that the people who devote their lives to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ have every right to receive support from the believers so they may continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know that the ministry team waived that right for the Thessalonians benefit. The ministry team set an example of working night and day so they would not be a burden to anyone. Some people at Thessalonica had become unruly, not following the example of the ministry team and working hard to buy their own bread. Ministry teams today should be very careful about the example they set regarding all financial matters. Although ministers have a right to be paid for their work from the people they serve, that right does not include gouging the believers so that the ministry team may live luxuriously in mansions and driving expensive vehicles that other believers could not afford.

Follow Our Example

1. <u>**Paul's Example**</u>. Why did the ministry team pay for their own food? To set an example for the Thessalonians to follow.

2. <u>Many Today</u>. Today many preachers make millions of dollars from people who listen to them on the television and internet.

3. <u>**Receive Support</u>**. Paul said that the ministry team had a right to receive support from the Thessalonians because they ministered to them.</u>

4. **<u>Gouging</u>**. Today many preachers work for sordid gain, gouging the people that listen to them, so that they can buy personal jets and live in mansions.

5. <u>Sordid Gain</u>. The ministry team bought their own food because they did not work for sordid gain, but to share the love of God without cost to those who listened to them.

6. <u>Some Pay for their Food</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that some preachers pay for their own food just to set a good example for the people who listen to them.

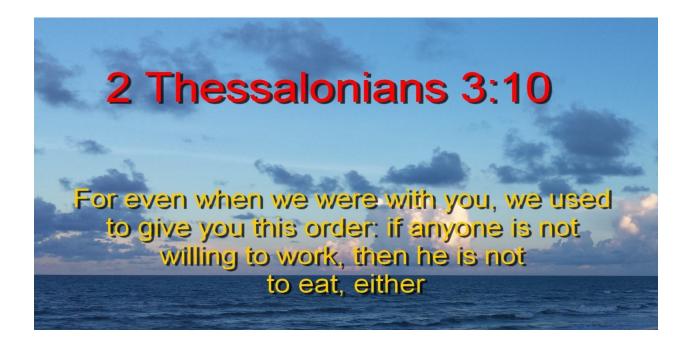
7. <u>Bread of Life</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus gives the Bread of Life to everyone who believes in Him for salvation; He paid the cost of eternal life by laying down His soul for us.

- We live worthy in the family of God by laying aside some rights to support.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by setting a great example for other believers to follow in financial matters.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by working hard so that we may pay for our own bread while becoming a model of hard work for the sake of the kingdom of God.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by laying aside rights to support. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by setting an example of hard work so that you may share the Gospel of Jesus Christ without becoming a financial burden to anyone?

Day Thirty Nine Willing to Work Today



What commandment did Paul give to the Thessalonians concerning people who were not willing to work? Paul gave them the order that, if a brother was unwilling to work, then he should not eat.

Paul was very practical and down to earth with the Thessalonians. He explained that the ministry team voluntarily laid aside its right to receive support for their ministry among the Thessalonians. In order to set a great example for the Thessalonians, the ministry team paid for the bread they ate.

Therefore, when the ministry team ordered the Thessalonians not to feed the unruly brother and who refused to work, the Thessalonians remembered not only the command of the ministry team, but also their example. When believers walk the talk, so that their personal actions match their message from Christ, people take notice.

God drew a distinction between people who are unable to work and those who are unwilling to work. God had a means test for feeding people. The test was very simple. If the person is unwilling to work, then they should not eat, either.

Not To Eat

1. <u>Unruly</u>. What order did Paul give the Thessalonians regarding unruly brethren? Paul ordered that the unruly brethren should not eat if they are not willing to work.

2. <u>Unwilling</u>. Notice the word "willing." That word indicates that they are able to work, but do not want to work.

3. <u>Not Unable</u>. Paul recognized that some people are unable to work and need their family and then the church to support them.

4. **<u>Support</u>**. The ministry team laid aside their right to support in order to set a righteous example for the Thessalonians.

5. <u>**Hard Work**</u>. The ministry team modeled the tradition of working hard so that you are not a burden to anyone else.

6. <u>**Commanded**</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that you remind people that God commanded that brethren who are unwilling to work should not eat.

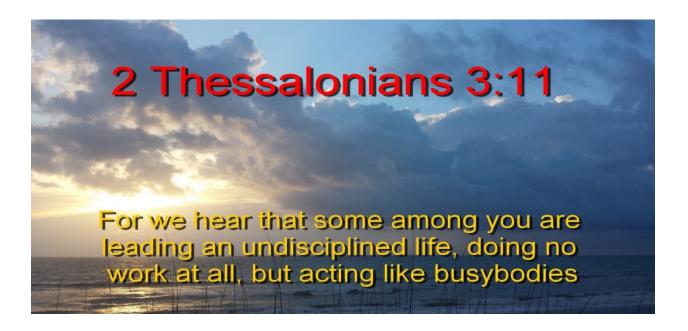
7. <u>Not a Burden</u>. We rejoice today because God values hard work so that you may pay for your own food and not be a burden to others.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by following the commands of God concerning the proper use of food and money.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by obeying the order that if anyone is unwilling to work, then he should not eat, either.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by encouraging all the saints to pay for their own bread, so they are not a burden to anyone.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by obeying God's command to work so that we can pay for our own food. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by encouraging every saint to work who is able to work so that they can buy their own bread and not be a burden to anyone?

Day Forty Undisciplined Today



Why did Paul warn the Thessalonians about busybodies? Paul warned them because they were leading an undisciplined life and setting a bad example for the assembly.

Some of the Thessalonians were doing no work at all. Paul commanded the Thessalonians to keep away from saints leading an unruly life. When saints are able to work but are unwilling to work, then the saints should not feed them and they should not eat.

Paul wanted to discourage people from sitting down and doing nothing profitable for the kingdom while they waited for the return of Jesus Christ. On the contrary, the ministry team labored night and day so that they would not be a burden to anyone. They always paid for the bread they ate.

Paul focused upon busybodies. When people are not working, but are able to work, then they often get into the business of other people without cause. The ministry team set a great example of love and kindness for all the saints at Thessalonica. They worked hard to earn money to buy bread and they worked hard ministering at Thessalonica without burdening the saints.

Busybodies

1. <u>Undisciplined</u>. Why did Paul call some of the Thessalonians busybodies? Paul called them busybodies because they led an undisciplined life.

2. <u>No Work</u>. Paul described busybodies as people who do no work at all and lead an undisciplined life.

3. <u>Expect Food</u>. Busybodies also expect other people to feed them, even if they do no work.

4. **Unwilling**. Paul reminded the Thessalonians that if someone is not willing to work, then they should not eat, either

5. <u>Violation</u>. Many people today give money to people who are unwilling to work and so violate the command of God.

6. **Do Not Feed**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we do not feed undisciplined people who are unwilling to work.

7. <u>Jesus' Discipline</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus led a perfectly disciplined life as God in the flesh and gave us the Bread of Life without cost to us.

- We live worthy in the family of God by keeping away from saints who lived an undisciplined life.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by avoiding busybodies.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by leading the disciplined life, working hard to buy our own bread, and making time to minister as a team.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by working hard so that we are not a burden to anyone. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by avoiding busybodies?

Day Forty One Work Today



Why did Paul command the Thessalonians to work in quiet fashion? Because Paul wanted them to work for their own bread.

Paul established some basic economic principles for all saints. Each saint should be willing to work, provided they are able to work. Each saint should buy their own bread with the money they earned for their own work.

Paul also emphasized that the Thessalonians should work in quiet fashion. He meant that they should not work so as to draw attention. By working, they were not doing something special, but something required of everyone who is able to work.

Paul directed his commands to the busybodies. He commanded and exhorted them to work in quiet fashion. Paul envisioned the New Testament church supporting itself by each member working quietly, according to their ability. Paul also described the church as self-supporting. Each member of the body of Christ would first provide for themselves and their family. Everyone would eat their own bread which they bought from their own work.

Own Bread

1. <u>**Command</u>**. What did Paul command the busybodies to do? Paul commanded the busybodies to work in quiet fashion and eat their own food.</u>

2. <u>Work</u>. The ministry team set the example of working hard so that they could purchase their own food.

3. <u>**Team's Example**</u>. Paul declared that the ministry team never ate anyone's food without paying for it.

4. **<u>Busybodies</u>**. The busybodies were able to work, but unwilling to work.

5. <u>Unruly</u>. Paul described busybodies as leading an unruly life.

6. **Quiet**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we encourage the busybodies to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

7. <u>**Our Own Food**</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus loves for us to work in quiet fashion so that we can buy our own food.

- We live worthy in the family of God by working in quiet fashion and eating our own bread.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by understanding that God commanded each saint with the ability to work to do so.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by eating our own bread which we earn by working in quiet fashion.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by working in quiet fashion because God commanded us to do so. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by eating your own bread?

Day Forty Two Doing Good Today



How does the pressure of living a Godly life affect some people? Some people, including the Thessalonians, needed encouragement not to grow weary of doing good.

Paul wrote under the inspiration of God. The Holy Spirit moved Paul to write down the things revealed to him by God. Paul wrote about issues that all Christians face. In this case, the Thessalonians lived under persecution and affliction as a way of life.

The Jews of Thessalonica fiercely opposed Paul and chased him after he left. Some of the Thessalonians received Jesus as Messiah Savior. They suffered for their faith and Paul encouraged them not to give up.

Paul understood affliction and persecution and had a close bond with the Thessalonians. By the Spirit of God working within him, Paul exhorted the Thessalonians not to grow weary in doing good. Some people had begun to live unruly lives and were no longer working in quiet fashion to support themselves. Some of those people were busybodies. Paul commanded the Thessalonians that the people who are unwilling to work should not eat.

Paul gave commands that addressed real-life concerns at Thessalonica. He was very precise in laying out how to deal with unruly people, while encouraging the saints not to grow weary in doing good.

Weary

1. <u>**Command</u>**. What did Paul tell the Thessalonians about doing good? Paul commanded them not to grow weary of doing good.</u>

2. **<u>Do Good</u>**. When some people work and buy their own bread, when other people do not work, but are able to work, doing good may make you tired.

3. <u>Under Pressure</u>. Doing good under continuous pressure, affliction, and persecution may impose a burden upon you.

4. <u>Spiritual</u>. Paul understood the Thessalonians continued to do good, even when spiritual pressures mounted.

5. <u>Encouragement</u>. All saints need to hear the encouragement that we should never grow weary of doing good.

6. <u>Not Weary</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we are careful not to grow weary of doing good.

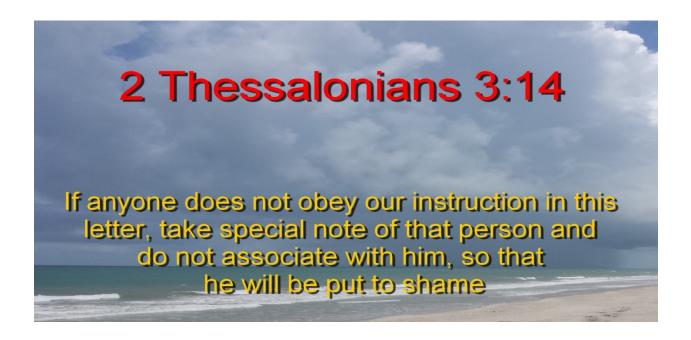
7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Jesus never grows weary of doing good for us.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by doing good.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by not growing weary in doing good.
- > We live together worthy in the family of God by strengthening one another and doing good together so that we help each other not to grow weary in doing good.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by doing good. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by not growing weary of doing good?

Day Forty Three Special Note Today



What do we do when some believers do not obey the instructions in the Bible? Paul commanded us to take special note of that person.

As Paul closed the second letter to the Thessalonians, he emphasized living in church discipline aimed at maintaining order. Paul provided very concrete instructions about how to deal with people who did not follow his instructions from God.

Paul commanded the Thessalonians to take special note of every person who did not obey the instructions Paul provided. Today many people completely ignore other people who do not follow the instructions in the Bible. They often turned to books by famous preachers or famous authors instead of looking at the Bible to look and see what God said. When we follow men, we live human lives. When we follow Jesus, we walk in the Light and have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Paul provided commands. Many Christians do not take those commands seriously and tend to ignore them. Paul said when people ignore his commands, the entire church should take special note of that person. They should not associate with that person, putting that saint to open shame.

Put To Shame

1. <u>**Disobedient</u>**. How should the Thessalonians react to people who disobey God's commandments? The Thessalonians should not associate with that disobedient person.</u>

2. <u>**Behavior**</u>. Paul provided very specific commandments regarding evil behavior by some of the saints at Thessalonica.

3. <u>Unruly</u>. Unruly people should not eat, if they are unwilling to work.

4. **<u>Busybodies</u>**. Paul commanded the busybodies to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

5. **<u>Do Good</u>**. Paul commanded the faithful Thessalonians not to grow weary of doing good.

6. <u>**Take Note</u>**. Living worthy in the family of God means that we take special note of the people who do not obey Paul's instructions and we do not associate with them, so that they may be put to shame.</u>

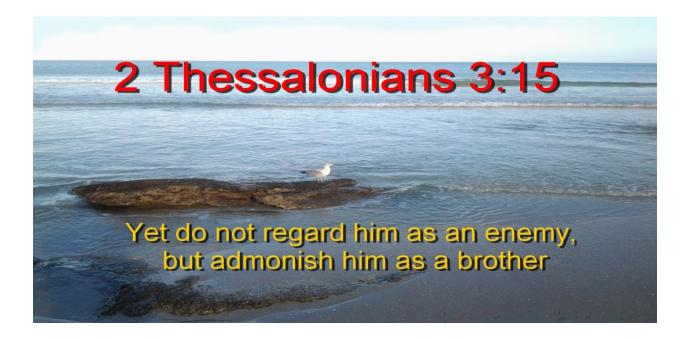
7. **<u>Open Shame</u>**. We rejoice today because Jesus was put to open shame by His death on a cross so that we would never experience that shame which we all deserve.

- > We live worthy in the family of God by obeying the instructions God provided for us in the Bible.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by taking special note of people who do not follow the instructions in the Bible.
- > We live together worthy in the family of God by not associating with people who disobey God's instructions in the Bible, putting them to open shame.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by taking special note of people who do not follow the instructions God gave to us in the Bible. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by not associating with saints who disobey God, and put them to open shame?

Day Forty Four Regard Today



How do we regard the disobedient people that we do not associate with? We do not regard them as an enemy, but admonish them as brothers.

Paul wanted the local assembly to take strong action against all the saints who did not follow the instructions Paul provided to them in his letter. Paul imposed a form of church discipline upon the disobedient. He specifically directed the members of the local assembly not to associate with the disobedient saints.

Paul was concerned that the local assembly may regard the disobedient saint as an enemy. Therefore, Paul explicitly stated that the disobedient saint was not an enemy and should not be treated as such.

Paul commanded the local assembly to admonish the disobedient saints. In this case, admonish means to confront them and encourage them to be obedient. Paul also wanted the disobedient saints to be put to shame by the way the local assembly did not associate with them. Paul was not imposing punitive measures, but rather church discipline intended to restore the saint to full fellowship.

Admonish

1. <u>**Treatment**</u>. How do we treat saints who do not follow the instructions from God? We do not associate with that person, but we do not regard that person as an enemy.

2. <u>**Disobedient**</u>. Disobedient saints should be admonished by all saints.

3. **Discipline**. Part of church discipline includes action by every saint.

4. <u>No Association</u>. We do not associate with the disobedient saints, so that they will be put to shame.

5. **Intention**. God intended that the saints live and fellowship with each other and with Him.

6. <u>Admonish</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we admonish disobedient saints, but we do not regard them as an enemy.

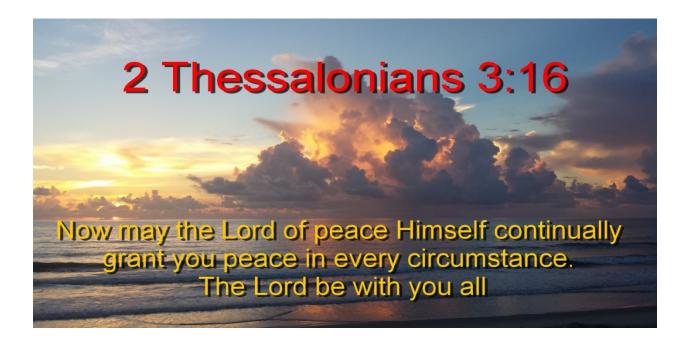
7. <u>Love</u>. We rejoice today because Jesus loved us and gave His life for us, even when we were enemies of God.

- We live worthy in the family of God by not regarding the disobedient saints as enemies.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by admonishing the disobedient.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by taking God's commandments regarding the discipline and restoration of disobedient saints seriously and following God's instructions regarding them.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by not regarding disobedient saints as enemies, but admonishing them as brothers. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by admonishing the unruly brothers?

Day Forty Five Peace Today



Who did Paul pray to as he closed out his epistle to the Thessalonians? Paul prayed to the Lord of Peace.

Paul knew from personal experience that the Thessalonians lived in a very hostile atmosphere. The Jews there persecuted them with afflictions. Other people had come and told them that the Lord Jesus had returned and they had missed Him. In the midst of persecution and deception, the Thessalonians continued in love for one another and their faith was well known.

Paul prayed to the Lord of Peace. Living with persecution does not mean an absence of peace in your life. Paul understood that the Lord of Peace can give peace in every circumstance. When we let our circumstances deprive us of peace from God, then we know it is time to pray to the Lord of Peace that He would grant us peace in every circumstance. The Lord Jesus Christ bought our peace with God at the expense of His suffering and death for our sins. The Lord of Peace endured the full wrath of God on our behalf, so that we, having been justified by faith, have peace with God.

Every Circumstance

1. <u>Lord of Peace</u>. Paul prayed to the Lord of Peace, a very fitting title to describe the peace that only God gives to us.

2. <u>Asked</u>. Often we must ask for things we want the Lord to grant to us.

3. <u>**Continually**</u>. Paul asked for continual peace. He knew that God's peace would be required on a moment-by-moment basis.

4. **Every**. Paul prayed that the Thessalonians would receive peace from the Lord of Peace in every circumstance, not just from time to time or for some circumstances.

5. <u>**Circumstance**</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we need to ask the Lord of Peace to grant to us and everyone in the family of God peace in every circumstance.

6. **<u>Prayer</u>**. Paul knew that the Thessalonians were being persecuted and afflicted in many different circumstances. Therefore, he prayed that in every circumstance the Lord of peace would grant them peace.

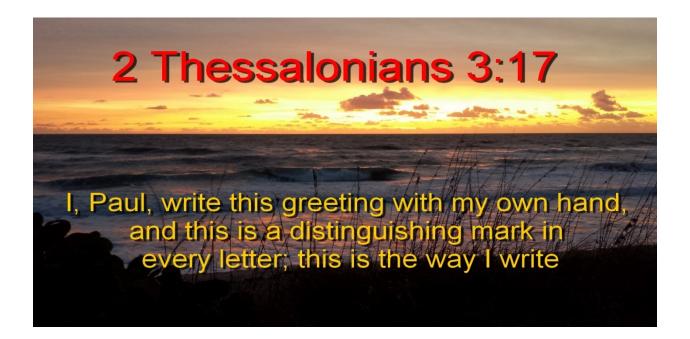
7. <u>All</u>. We rejoice today because the Lord of Peace is with us all--all the time, all the day, all the way, and in all circumstances.

- We live worthy in the family of God by praying to the Lord of Peace.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by praying that the Lord of Peace would grant us peace in every circumstance.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by praying for one another that the Lord of Peace will be with us all.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by praying the Lord of Peace will grant us peace in every circumstance. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by enjoying the peace which the Lord of peace gives to you?

Day Forty Six Greeting Today



Why did Paul say that he wrote the greeting with his own hand? Apparently Paul wanted to authenticate his autographs to avoid counterfeits.

Paul included a distinguishing mark in every letter. He may have dictated some material which another person wrote down. When it came time to sign the letter, Paul put his own distinguishing mark on it. You may recall to that the Thessalonians had been disturbed by some false people indicating that the Lord Jesus had returned and the Thessalonians had missed Him.

Paul clearly understood that his letters were inspired by God and therefore subject to counterfeits. False apostles and false teachers and false prophets and all kinds of evil people were out there claiming that they spoke for God. The devil loves to counterfeit the works of God.

Paul included a distinguishing mark and his own handwriting in his epistles to authenticate them. Paul wanted the Thessalonians, and others,

to know with confidence that they were holding the letter that Paul actually wrote.

Write

1. <u>Mark</u>. How did Paul mark his letters as originals? Paul used a distinguishing mark in all of his letters.

2. **<u>Greeting</u>**. Paul wrote the greeting with his own hand.

3. <u>Dictation</u>. Paul may have had an amanuensis (a person who takes the dictation) write down some of the material as he dictated it, and then he provided the greeting with his own hand.

4. <u>Special Letters</u>. Paul understood that his letters were special, because God inspired them.

5. <u>Autographs</u>. Therefore, Paul took steps to sign the autographs with his distinguishing mark.

6. **Inspired by God**. Living worthy in the family of God means that God inspired the words that Paul wrote down.

7. <u>**God's Word**</u>. We rejoice today because God breathed out His word through men moved by the Holy Spirit to speak for Him.

- We live worthy in the family of God by understanding that Paul took steps to authenticate his letters.
- > We live more worthy in the family of God by carefully examining every book claiming inspiration from God and comparing it to the Bible, consisting of sixty-six books.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by praising God for preserving the New Testament for us through the millennia.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by recognizing the power of God to preserve the word of God for the family of God. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by taking time to read your Bible and learn more about why God took so many steps to preserve His word?

Day Forty Seven Lord Jesus Christ Today



How did Paul close his letters? Paul closed his letters by directing the attention of the recipients to God.

Paul offered a blessing to the Thessalonians as he closed his letter. He wanted the blessing of grace to rest upon them. Paul was not playing favorites. He wanted the blessing of grace to rest upon all the Thessalonians.

Paul also used the phrase Lord Jesus Christ. Only the Lord Jesus Christ saves people from their sins. Only the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross. Only the Lord Jesus Christ laid down His soul so that we would be born from above in Him.

Paul also described Jesus as our Lord Jesus Christ. By using the term our, Paul emphasized the unity of the Thessalonians and Jesus Christ as Lord. Jesus is Lord of every Thessalonian born from above. They all serve one Lord. Paul also emphasized the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grace always means that God gave us something we do not deserve and cannot earn, ever. No one can boast, because the free gift of grace does not include works.

Grace

1. <u>**Closing**</u>. What did Paul want the Thessalonians to have as he closed the letter? Paul wanted them to have the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with them.

2. <u>Focus</u>. We have many ways of saying goodbye and the New Testament writers often focused upon our Lord Jesus Christ in closing.

3. **<u>Remember</u>**. The last thing we write to people may be something they remember the most.

4. <u>**Grace of Jesus**</u>. Paul focused upon the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **In Suffering**. As the Thessalonians continued to suffer persecution and affliction, Paul wanted them to have the grace of the Lord Jesus with them.

6. <u>Saints</u>. Living worthy in the family of God means that we want the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to be with saints.

7. <u>Friends</u>. We rejoice today because we have friends in Christ who remind us of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives.

- We live worthy in the family of God by blessing our friends in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We live more worthy in the family of God by remembering the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives.
- We live together worthy in the family of God by living in the family of God as one people blessed with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Application for Today

Today, we may live worthy in the family of God by blessing our friends in the family of God with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live worthy in the family of God today by blessing your friends today in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Conclusion

Paul loved the Thessalonians and the ministry team joined him in that love. The ministry team labored among them, bearing fruit for the glory of God. The love of the Thessalonians was growing and was well known among the saints. Paul explained to them the course of future events which would precede the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, based upon that knowledge of the future, the Thessalonians could rest assured that Jesus had not returned and they missed Him. Paul also exhorted the Thessalonians to endure great persecution today, knowing that Christ would pay back justly all those who persecuted the family of God when He returned in great power. Until then, the Thessalonians should continue to work hard and follow the example of the ministry team, so they would not be a burden to anyone, eating their own bread. Paul concluded his epistle by commending the Thessalonians to the Lord of Peace, Who would grant them peace in every way and in everything and with everyone.