

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



## II Thessalonians (Part-3, Chapter 2:13-3:18)

10.19.22

Why is Paul bound to give thanks? (2:13-14)

What traditions must we hold on to? (2:15)

What is Paul's blessing for church? (2:16-17)

What is Paul's prayer request? (3:1-5)

How must we respond to disorderly? (3:6-15)

Paul's benediction of Peace & Grace (3:16-18)

Why is Paul bound  
to give thanks?  
(2:13-14)

# Paul is Thankful for past, present, future

13 But we are bound to give thanks  
always to God for you, brethren  
beloved of the Lord, because God  
hath from the beginning chosen you  
to salvation through sanctification of  
the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our  
gospel, to the obtaining of the glory  
of our Lord Jesus Christ (13-14)

## Chosen. Sanctified. Glorified.

**PAST:** God has chosen us to salvation

Chosen before the foundation of the world, **Ephesians 1:4**

He loved us before we loved Him, **I John 4:19**

You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, **John 15:16**

**PRESENT:** Salvation attained and continued through Sanctification

Work out your salvation (**Philippians 2:12**)

**FUTURE:** Glorification (we will be like Him, **I John 3:2**) (**Romans 8:30**)

**What traditions must  
we hold on to? (2:15)**

# Precious Traditions

Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. (15)

**Stand fast** and **Hold** to sound doctrines / teachings

- Contend for the faith (Jude 3)
- “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets” (Ephesians 2:20)
- **Paul’s source**: For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:12)

Good foundation will help us to stand firm! (Mathew 7:25)

**Reject man-made traditions & unbiblical church traditions**

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ (Colossians 2:8)

**All traditions must be based on God’s Word**

# Paul's prayer of blessing for church (2:16-17)

# Paul's blessings through Christ

<sup>16</sup> Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, <sup>17</sup> Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

God has given us:

everlasting consolation & good hope through grace

- Be Comforted through Christ (I Thessalonians 1:18,5:11) (II Thessalonians 2:17)
- Be established in good word and work

# Paul's prayer request & confidence (3:1-5)



# Paul's 3-fold prayer request ... a model prayer for all preachers and evangelists

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith (3: 1-2)

1. Word of God (gospel) may flow uninterrupted
2. Word may be proclaimed for His glory
3. He may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men

Once Word is released in spirit, it will be fruitful

- So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it (**Isaiah 55:11**)

Is it surprising that a great apostle needed others to pray for him? “Brethren, pray for us” (**I Thessalonians 5:25**)

# Paul's prayer requests ... two other examples

## Ephesians 6:18-19

And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

## Colossians 4:3

Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

# Paul's confidence & prayer

<sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

<sup>4</sup> And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. <sup>5</sup> And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

## Paul's CONFIDENCE

- God is faithful
- Church will obey his teachings

## PRAYER

Church may grow in love & patience (love & patience needed in good measure when going through persecution and trials)

# Fellowshipping with & Fine tuning Followers of Christ (6-15)

Restoration of Disorderly through Discipline

# Correct & Continuous Fellowship is important

- Continuous fellowship is essential (Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:25)
- Correct fellowship is essential  
Numerous “Christian fellowships are available” ... we must fellowship with those who are continuing in the traditions of God’s word (2:15)

# Fine-tuning of fellow believers is important

## Proverbs 17:17

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Discipline in local church fellowship is essential

Context for discipline here: Work ethics

# Paul's work ethic

<sup>7</sup> For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

<sup>8</sup> Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: <sup>9</sup> Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

- Worked hard
  - Did not depend on others or be a burden
  - Kept himself as an example
- 
- Is it okay for God's servants like Paul to be paid?

# Is it okay to reward those who labor in ministry?

It is okay for Paul to be compensated for his ministry

thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.  
The laborer is worthy of his reward (I Timothy 5:18)

We must **prayerfully provide** for those who are laboring for the Lord (like full-time God's servants, missionaries, and other ministries).

But God's servants must not treat ministry like a profession and negotiate compensation. **It is a calling to be a servant of God** ... and God will provide when we respond to that call.

**Money oftentimes corrupts Ministry. Don't mix Money & Ministry.**



# Paul's standard

For even when we were  
with you, this we  
commanded you, that if any  
would not work, neither  
should he eat (10)



No work, No food



Should there be any  
exceptions to this rule?

# Paul's standard

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat (10)

Should there be any exceptions to “no work-no food” rule?

Dependents and Disabled should be taken care of by others.

# Dealing with disorderly

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us (5)

**Disorderly?:** Those who do not follow Paul's traditions (2:15)

The context here seems to be lazy believers who are not working (verse 11)

**Paul's command:** withdraw fellowshiping with disorderly

# Laziness and gossip

For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread (11-12)

Laziness and life-without-purpose leads to other sins

Lazy believers should be encouraged and admonished to work and glorify God through their work

Gossiping is sin

- And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. (**I Timothy 5:13**)
- And that ye study to be quiet and to do your own business (**I Thessalonians 4:11**)
- But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters (**I Peter 4:15**)

# Responding to disorderly through discipline

And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. (14-15)

Disorderly – those who do not obey

Disciplinary measure - Denial of fellowship

Denial will lead to shame, guilt, and conviction

Denial of fellowship **is not rejection** of brotherly relationship

Admonish as a brother (not enemy) ... do in the spirit of love

**Goal:** Sharpening and Restoration of believer

God is a God of order  
... disorder in a church  
must be corrected  
lovingly and decisively.

# BENEDICTION

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.<sup>17</sup> I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write.<sup>18</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all (16-18)

- **Blessing of Peace** (for a church under persecution & turmoil)
  - He is the price of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)
  - He gives perfect peace when we remain focused on Him (Isaiah 26:3)
  - He gives peace in the midst of storms (Mark 4:39)
  - The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalms 29:11)
- **Grace ... begins and ends the letter with “grace”**
- **Paul signs off to show the authenticity of letter (17)**