



I and II Thessalonians

Lesson 6 II Thess. Chapter 3

According to Paul, the mystery of lawlessness was already at work in his time. It is clear that the deception that was influencing the panic in the church at Thessalonica was the work of Satan lying and confusing God's people, so they became disturbed and distracted. Doing that during their period of persecution and suffering made the time ripe for doctrinal distortions and fearmongering. Although they had been taught the clear truths of Christ's coming, their difficult circumstances encouraged wrong reactions to the alterations they were hearing.

Paul's exhortation in chapter 3 to those who were struggling identifies the difficulty they

experienced responding correctly to the dark times they were living in. The fight to maintain Biblical purity in the midst of cultural chaos is dramatic, but the battle must be won by walking in the truth and not compromising. This is a good reminder to Christians today as the culture gets darker, the hostility to the truth of Scripture gets more threatening, and the temptation to compromise becomes attractive. Believers must cling to the Word and not be disturbed by pressure to surrender to deception and disinformation.

READ CHAPTER 3

1. *What two things does Paul ask them to pray for him, and what did he trusting God would do for them? Vs. 1-3*

2. *In light of the previous information Paul has given them about the details that must take place before the Lord returns, he is now going to address the main reason for this letter to them. How is he expecting them to respond to the instruction he is about to give? Vs. 4-5*

3. *What does Paul command them to do, and what authority does he base his command on? Vs. 6*



The phrase in the NAS “keep aloof” is stello which means to avoid or withdraw from, and the word “unruly” is ataktos which means irregularly or disorderly.

4. *What does Paul give as an explanation of why they should know this principle? Vs. 7*

5. *What specific example does Paul use to identify how they should be living? Vs. 8-10*

6. *How had Paul already explained this to them in his first letter? 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12*

7. *Why is Paul saying all this? 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 How do you think the false information they had been given that the day of the Lord had come might have influenced this behavior?*

8. *Why does he give them the encouragement in vs. 13?*

9. *How does Paul want them to respond to those who don't listen to this instruction, and what is the purpose of that? Vs. 14-15*



The word “admonish” NAS in verse 15 is in the present imperative tense. This is a command to do something in the future and involves continuous or repeated action. When it is negative and prohibits an action, it usually carries with it the implication of stopping an action that has been taking place.

~Hebrew/Greek Word Study Bible

10. *Do you think this method of discipline would be effective today if it was applied? Why or why not?*

11. *Give a brief overview of the main points of 1 and 2 Thessalonians.*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
