

LESSON 3: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-3:18

1. Why “ought [we] always to thank God” concerning our “brothers loved by the Lord” (2:13)? Who saves us? How are we saved? And toward what end (vv. 13-14)?
2. What are we to do in light of so great a salvation? What do you think Paul means when he instructs his readers to “hold to the traditions we passed on to you” (v. 15)? When are “traditions” harmful?
3. In verse 16, Paul writes a beautiful blessing for his readers. What two benefits of God’s love does he ask be given to us? Why these two? (See also 1 Thessalonians 3:2.)

May God Direct You

1. What were Paul’s prayer requests (3:1-2)? Why is this balanced approach of both the positive and negative so important for believers? (Compare 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2:13.)
2. List and describe the keys to victorious Christian living (vv. 3-5). What is significant about Paul’s contrasting the fact that “not everyone has faith” with “but the Lord is faithful” (vv. 2-3)?
3. Immediately after his blessing which ends with the call for “perseverance,” Paul begins to rebuke the idle (vv. 6-15). He had made passing mention of the problem in his first letter (1 Thess. 4:11-12; 5:14), and now really speaks to the issue at some length. What do you think was going on here?

4. What is the significance of Paul's issuing his command "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 6)? What was his command? Read verses 14-15 and elaborate on Paul's instructions? What do we learn thus about the goal and character of church discipline? Why are love and discipline hard to balance?

5. Paul invokes the example he himself set as being a model they should follow (v. 7; see also 1 Thess. 1:6). What example did he set before them when he was with them (vv. 7-10)? What are the two reasons he gives for his laboring while with them? What then does he mean in verse 9 (compare 1 Thess. 2:6)? What is the connection between being "not busy" and being "busybodies" (v. 11)? Finally, what principles are we to take away from all this (see vv. 10,13)?

6. How were Paul's concluding remarks especially appropriate for the Thessalonian Christians and their situation? (Also, compare his remark in v. 17 with Gal. 6:11.)