Pure Doctrine for Holy Living

A Study of 2 Thessalonians

Confidence in the Lord

Lesson 21

2 Thessalonians 3

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
May 26, 2019
The Gospel in the Old Testament
Summer, 2019

Lesson 01: The Creator of Heaven and Earth
   Genesis 1
Lesson 02: You Shall Surely Die!
   Genesis 2-3
Lesson 03: Grace in the Eyes of the Lord
   Genesis 6-9
Lesson 04: The Gospel Preached to Abraham
   Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-21; Galatians 3:8
Lesson 05: The Lord Will Provide
   Genesis 22
Lesson 06: Jacob and Esau
   Genesis 25:20-34; 27:1-40
Lesson 07: The Passover Lamb
   Exodus 11-12
Lesson 08: The Old Covenant
   Exodus 19, 24
Lesson 09: A King and a Kingdom
   2 Samuel 7
Lesson 10: An Offering for Sin
   Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Lesson 11: The New Covenant
   Jeremiah 31
Lesson 12: The Valley of Dry Bones
   Ezekiel 36:22-37:14
Lesson 13: The Just Shall Live by Faith
   Habakkuk 1-3
2 Thessalonians 1

- A growing church (1:3, 11)
- A suffering church (1:4)
- A church displaying the righteousness of God (1:5-10)
  - Worthy of the Kingdom of God for all who believe
  - Eternal justice for those who do not believe
- Christ will be glorified in His saints
- Paul’s prayer captures the essence of the Christian life
  - A worthy life (1:11)
  - A life in which Christ will be glorified at His coming (1:12)
2 Thessalonians 2

- A threat to their peace – false teaching about the Day of the Lord (2:1-2)
- The signs: the apostasy and the man of sin
- A time of Satanic activity to be terminated by the return of the Lord
- The hope of the believer – chosen to gain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ
- An encouragement to stand firm in the truth
- Prayer to God - comfort and strength “for every good work and word”
2 Thessalonians 3

- Focus continues on persevering in “every good work and word”
- A prayer request concerning the word (3:1-5)
- A serious problem within the church (3:6-15)
- A prayer for grace and peace (3:16-18)
2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

▶ “Brethren, pray for us . . .”

▶ That the word of the Lord will run rapidly
  – Boldness to proclaim the instrument of God’s grace
  – Faith to believe that it is the instrument of God’s grace
  – Understanding that the word is effective

▶ That the word of the Lord will be glorified
  – The glory of God consists in His attributes (Ex. 33:18, 21,23; 34:5-7)
  – To glorify God is to expose Him, by word or work
  – Glory belongs to God (Rev. 19:1; 1 Peter 4:11)
  – As it did with you (1:10, 12; 2:14)
2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

- That we will be rescued from perverse and evil men (3:2-3)
  - A binary world – faith or no faith
  - Obey or not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus (1:7)
  - Love or hate Jesus Christ (John 15:18-21)
  - The need for protection from evil men
  - The Lord is faithful – will strengthen and protect from the evil one
- We have confidence in the Lord concerning you (3:4-5)
  - He will strengthen and protect you is grounds for confidence (3:3)
  - The result of Divine strength – obedience to what Paul commands
  - The heart of the matter (Jer 17:9; Deut 30:6; Eze 36:26-27)
    - Directed into the love of God – for us and/or in us
    - Directed into the steadfastness of Christ – for us and/or in us
2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

- The undisciplined life (3:6)
  - A surprising issue
  - Literal translation: without order
  - Explained: not according the tradition received from Paul (3:6)
  - Tradition: customs or beliefs passed on to following generations
    - Tradition from man (Matt. 15:6; Gal. 1:14; Col. 2:8)
    - Traditions from God (2:15; 1 Cor. 11:2) – apostolic teaching

- Paul’s example of a disciplined life (3:7-10)
  - Labor and hardship; night and day; not be a burden
  - Deferring the right to be supported (1 Cor. 9:6-18)
  - Instructing the Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

The undisciplined life in Thessalonica (3:11)
- Unwilling to work
- Acting like busybodies
  - “working around” – where you do not belong (Acts 19:19; 1 Tim. 5:13)
  - “bishop of what belongs to another” (1 Peter 4:15)
  - No concern for their own needs but interfering with others
- A serious issue
  - Peter – lists sin of being a busybody with murder
  - Paul – says not working is equivalent to being an unbeliever (1 Tim. 5:8)
- The alternative commanded (3:12)
  - Work – to supply your own bread (i.e. not be a burden on others)
  - Work in a quiet fashion – focus on the task at hand
2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

- The discipline for lack of discipline (3:13-15)
  - Do not be weary in doing good
  - Do not associate with the undisciplined person (3:6, 14)
    - Manner of dealing with sin in the church (1 Cor. 5:9-13)
    - Intent is to make him ashamed of his conduct
    - Treat as a brother and not an enemy
    - A variant of the church discipline in Matt 18:15-20

- Consider the extent of change brought by a life of faith in Christ
2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

- The Lord of peace
  - Peace – encompasses the entire work of salvation (Heb 13:20)
  - Peace – with God in justification (Romans 5:1)
  - Peace – of God in trials (Phil 4:6-7)
  - Peace – in the church (1 Thess 5:13)
  - Peace – in righteous living (1 Peter 3:11)
  - Peace because the Lord is with you

- The apostolic authority – Paul’s mark of verification

- The Lord of grace – confidence in Him