



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

# The Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

## Chapter 3

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# Introduction

- In this last chapter, St. Paul started it by asking for prayer while he is praying for them too
- Some Thessalonians having the impression that the day of Christ had come, they stopped working
- St. Paul instructed them in the first letter to work and not to be busybodies but some did not listen
- So here he is issuing a disciplinary action in order to lead them to repentance
- He concluded the chapter by asking them to preserve the unity and giving them his benediction



# Request for Prayers (3:1-5)

- St. Paul is asking for prayers:
  - ❖ That the word of God may run swiftly (spread all over the world) and be glorified (by accepting it) even during persecution
  - ❖ They may be delivered from unreasonable (doubts) and wicked (sins) men (who try to hinder preaching the word)
- Sufferings for the word must happen because not all have faith and the antidote is prayers



# Request for Prayers (3:1-5)

- Men may be unbelievers, and hostile, but the Lord is faithful to every promise
- In spite of these wicked men, He will keep you from the power of the evil one
- We have confidence that by the Lord's power and protection you do and will do the things commanded
- The motive to do these commandments is the love of God, and power to do them is the patience

# Warning Against Idleness (3:6-15)



- He has expressed a belief that they will readily obey his commands (2 Thess 3:4), He now gives one
- The command is directed to the whole church
- Withdraw: Decline to receive as a brother longer, exclude from fellowship
- This command applies to the disorderly walking, but here addresses those who refused to work
- Tradition: The instructions received from us

# Warning Against Idleness (3:6-15)



- Lest he might seem to deal harshly with them, he sets forth himself as an example
- So, besides his efforts in preaching, he labored with his hands, although he was not bound to do
- He did this, so he would not be a burden on the church although he has the right to be supported by them
- Also he wanted to set an example of diligence and hard working

# Warning Against Idleness (3:6-15)



- Even then he gave a command that if any refused to work for their food, he should not be supported by others
- He who is able to work, and unwilling, should not be fed
- Disorderly: doing nothing
- It is a sin to be an idler. God requires diligence
- Christians should go to work, live quiet lives, and support themselves

# Warning Against Idleness (3:6-15)



- Do not get weary of the duties of life
- Execute all religious and secular duties faithfully
- Excommunication is punishment for the stubborn
- We must have no familiarity or fellowship with the one who has been excommunicated
- Being ashamed by the excommunication, the sinner may repent; the purpose is his salvation
- Give him kind and brotherly admonition, and let him know the reason for your discipline



# Benediction (3:16–18)



- The Lord of peace, Jesus Christ, bestows peace upon all who walk in Him
- He adds the salutation in his own handwriting
- The Epistle thus far had been written by one to whom he dictated, as was his custom, but he now adds his autograph
- This autograph was proof of the genuineness. Their attention is perhaps called to this on account of a false epistle (2 Thess 2:2)



# Conclusion

- For what two things does St. Paul ask them to pray in his behalf?
- What confidence did St. Paul have in the Thessalonians?
- What did St. Paul ask the Lord to do for the Thessalonians?
- What had St. Paul commanded them, even when he was with them?
- What did St. Paul command such busybodies to do?
- What did St. Paul charge them to do if anyone did not obey his word in this epistle?