

Busy Bodies, Not Busybodies: 2 Thes 3:1–18

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INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

Paul, Sylvanus & Timothy extend the Thessalonians grace & peace from the Father & Christ (1:1–2)

Paul finds himself appropriately compelled to thank God for the Thessalonians because their faith is growing and their mutual love for one another is spreading, resulting in Paul boasting of them among the churches regarding their patience & faith in persecutions & trials (which evidence God's righteous judgment); Paul prays that God would count them worthy of His (millennial) kingdom, for which they suffer; the reason that their patience in trials evidences God's righteous judgment is because it is right for God to afflict those who trouble the Thessalonians (by righteously judging those who neither know God nor obey Christ's good-news message w/ everlasting destruction away from the Lord's presence & away from the glory of His power) & to give the troubled Thessalonian believers rest (along with Paul [& other believers]) when Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels (second advent), when He comes in His second Advent to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all who believe (including the Thessalonians: who believed Paul's testimony of Christ) (1:3–10)

In light of the Thessalonians patience & faith in persecution & trials] Paul prays that God would count them worthy of His calling [e.g., rewardable] & would accomplish His purpose w/ regard to goodness [in their lives] and them using the content that they believe so that Christ may be glorified in them (& they may partake of that glory) according to the grace of the Father & the Son (1:11–12)

They should not be troubled by false revelation that the day of Christ had come, because neither (1) *the apostasy* nor (2) *the revelation of the man of sin* (who opposes God and exults himself above anything called God) occurred; they know about the restrainer (who assures that the man of sin will not be revealed until the proper time, although a mystery form of lawlessness already is in the world, but the restrainer will continue restraining until He stops restraining; Halfway through the trib will be a 2nd revelation of the man of sin (the lawless one), whom the Lord will destroy with a word at the brightness of His *parousia*; the Lawless one's presence (*parousia*) will show satanic power, signs & false wonders, deceiving those who are perishing (who hate the truth that would deliver them); god (thru Satan) will send strong delusion (in the form of satanic persuasion) so unbels (who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in what was false) may believe the lie & be judged (2:1–12)

Paul thanks God for them because God already chose them for deliverance (at the rapture) because the Holy Spirit sanctified these who believed the truth; who were called to this salvation by Paul's gospel, so they would obtain glory from the Lord Jesus Christ; SO; they are to stand firm in that communicated by Paul by letter or by Paul personally; to which end Paul prays that God (who—by grace—loved us and gave us everlasting comfort and good hope) establish them in every good word and work (2:13–17)

NEW EXPOSITION

(3:1) Paul urges them to pray for Paul that the word of the Lord may spread quickly and be glorified (as it was with the Thessalonians)

(3:2) [Paul also urges them to pray for Paul that] he be delivered from unreasonable and evil unbelievers

(3:3) Paul expresses confidence that the Lord will establish them and protect them from the evil one

Grammatically, it could say *protect them from evil* or *protect them from the evil one*

(3:4) Paul expresses confidence that they will follow his commands

(3:5) Paul prays that the Lord would direct their hearts into love God has [for them] and the patience that Christ has [with them]

(3:6) Paul commands separation from disorderly brethren (those who do not live in accord with Paul's commands)

(3:7–8) [The basis for separation from disorderly brethren is that] all of the Thessalonians saw Paul's example of orderliness and of working diligently to avoid being a burden on anyone

(3:9) [Paul's diligence did not arise from a lack of authority, but because he sought to be an example to them]

(3:10) While Paul was with them, he commanded not to feed those who [despite being able] refuse to work

(3:11–12) [Specifically,] Paul exhorts any disorderly Thessalonian brethren who do not work at all, but are busybodies to work without gossip and eat their own bread

(3:13) [By contrast] Paul exhorts the Thessalonians not to grow weary in doing good

(3:14) Paul urges a determination [by leadership] and to separate from such brethren, so they may become ashamed [and start obeying Paul's commands]

(3:15) Paul urges them not to treat the brother from whom they separate as an enemy, but to admonish him as a brother

(3:16) He extends peace in all ways from the Lord of peace & for the Lord to be w/ them

(3:17) Paul signed this letter, as he did with all of his letters

In 2 Thess 2:2, the Thessalonians were troubled by a forged letter

(3:18) Paul extends grace to them from the Lord Jesus Christ

CONCLUSION

Paul requests prayer for the word to spread and for protection from opponents and expresses confidence in the Lord working in them and that they will obey

Paul commands them to separate from disorderly brethren (those who refuse to work and are busybodies), noting that he was an example to them and commanded not to feed those who refuse to work; so they should [officially] note those who disregard Paul's commands and the congregation should not keep company with these people, so they will become ashamed; but they are not to treat them as enemies, but to exhort them as brethren