

Worksheet #10: 2 Thessalonians 3:1–18 (NKJV)

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you,² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

³ But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

⁵ Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

⁶ But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,⁹ not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

¹³ But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good.¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.¹⁵ Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

¹⁶ Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.

¹⁷ The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. What are Paul's prayer requests to the Thessalonian believers in vv. 1–2?

2. In what way might the word of the Lord “run swiftly” and “be glorified” (v. 1)? What would need to take place for that to occur, and how are these two ideas related?

3. Why does Paul emphasize the Lord's faithfulness and ability to “establish” and “guard” the Thessalonians (v. 3)?

4. From the context in vv. 6–15, what must Paul mean when he refers to the brother[s?] “who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition” (v. 6)?

5. How does the example of Paul and his team contrast with the disorderly brothers (vv. 7–9)? Why did Paul and his team choose to live as they did (v. 9)?

6. What does it mean to “work in quietness and eat [one's] own bread” (v. 12)?

7. What does Paul tell the congregation to do in regard to those who “do not obey” the word in v. 14? What does that mean, and what is the purpose/goal of such action?

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

8. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

9. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?

Review: *Take a few moments to look back through your study of 2 Thessalonians.*

10. What are some passages/topics in this book that you found to be particularly challenging or helpful?
