

## Receiving God's Peace

### 2 Thessalonians 3

3 topics

1. Prayer - spreading of the gospel message (mission).
2. Trust in God - Have faith in Jesus and the example of his endurance.
3. Keep away from the idle / disorderly (ἀτάκτως / ataktós).

3:16, May the Lord of peace himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

- Paul's desire is to see a healthy church. A church that is whole (integrity) and holy.
- This can only be true if the church lives at peace (shalom) / εἰρήνη, eiréné (Greek) with one another.

The Lord of peace give you peace in every way.

**vs. 1**, Pray for us.

As God's children we are not powerless.

God is a provider of strength despite evil and wicked people.

**vs. 2**, That we may be delivered.

**Acts 18:5-6, 12-13** When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself to preaching the word and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. **6** When they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his clothes and told them, "Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." **12** While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack against Paul and brought him to the tribunal. **13** "This man," they said, "is persuading people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."

**1 Thessalonians 2:14-16** For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, since you have also suffered the same things from people of your own country, just as they did from the Jews **15** who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and persecuted us. They displease God and are hostile to everyone, **16** by keeping us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. As a result, they are constantly filling up their sins to the limit, and wrath has overtaken them at last.

Not all have faith -> Remember, faith is having ones thoughts and life transformed around and committed in loyalty to the gospel of Jesus (the Messiah).

**Faith** -> Greek word -> πίστις (pistis)

Load bearing wall - It bears the weight of the structure.

It is a gift from God.

It is God's guarantee that his promises (revelation) will indeed take place.

It isn't just belief. It is genuinely trusting in the person and work of Jesus.

**vs. 3-5**, The Lord is faithful

Despite the loss of status in society and the resulting shame, Jesus deeply cares for you.

Perseverance and obedience are much easier when you trust the strength and ability of the one in authority.

- He will strengthen you
- He will guard you from the evil one.
- His love sustains.
- Jesus the Christ has given us the ultimate example in his endurance.
- WE can imitate him!

**vs. 6**, Paul gives an urgent warning.

There are a group of troublemakers who have been causing division in the church.

They have strayed from the apostolic teaching regarding work, integrity, and communal life.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** And we exhort you, brothers and sisters: warn those who are idle, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

The idle are incredibly active causing all kinds of strife and disruption. The term is busybodies (**vs. 11**).

Put these types of people at a distance.

Gossips -> collecting stories and then positioning themselves for invitation as to share the intrigue to those whose ears are itching for the dirt.

**vs. 13**, Do not grow weary in doing good (working).

The purpose of work is not to be a “show off” or to prove your worth.

Paul is asking the family of God to contribute to the *Shalom / eiréné* of the community.

**Romans 16:17-18** Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them, **18** because such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words.

Doing good -> making the right decisions, having the hard conversations, engaging in the movement and delight of the kingdom. Sacrificially serving the body of Christ.

It means we take the initiative to move others toward change, real, Jesus-centered change.

**vs. 16**, Key Theme = Peace

- Paul is reminding them of the gospel.
- God is revealing himself through Jesus the Messiah.
- Jesus has demonstrated and taught that those who are broken, because of sin, (all of us) can experience *shalom* (God given harmony).

**2 Corinthians 1:2-5** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. **4** He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God. **5** For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

**John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.

**Romans 16:20** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Paul speaks of another way.

- He says to live a quiet life, do good, work with your own hands (1 Thessalonians 4:11).
- The point is not to avoid setting goals.
- The point is to not develop a mindset of superiority and view yourself above the serving necessary as part of God’s kingdom.

**Question:** Have I received God’s peace? Jesus is the God of peace, are you experiencing his peace? Are you staying away from the idle? Are you contributing to the shalom of God’s people? Are you actively engaged in bringing shalom to your community? How are you actively “doing good” in the church and outside the church?