
THE LOVE OF GOD STEADFAST IN CHRIST

Second Thessalonians 2:13 - 3:15 — Part One

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- What a great job Micah Doerksen did last week!
 - Telling of Paul's correct teaching and comforting words, "yet they were fearful."
 - So Paul reassures them to have thankfulness rather than fear — judgment for "them" salvation for "you."
 - Set free from sin's bondage, free to choose the good and stand firm against the bad.
 - The Divine/human partnership: we hold fast and stand firm, God will comfort and strengthen. Where's the balance in your life? What guides you and yours?
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- So, after Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy pray for the Thessalonians: “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved **us** and given **us** everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen **you** in every good word and work.”
 - They ask the Thessalonians to pray for **them**:
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3 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.

– 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 - NKJV

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- Us obviously refers to Paul, Silvanus and Timothy.
 - Their prayer request is that the word of God may run swiftly and be glorified.
 - As it was with you when first you heard and were inspired to believe His word.
 - And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men.
 - For not all have faith (and unreasonable and wicked men never change their ways)!
 - But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.
 - And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.
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“Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the
patience of Christ.”

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- Even today **we** can still pray for the success of the Apostle Paul's efforts to spread the Word of the Lord by **our** holding fast to the traditions he began by preaching and teaching and commanding us as fellow ambassadors of Christ.
 - Remember who we represent has much greater strength and power than what we have in ourselves. When we are called upon to explain the hope we have in Jesus.
 - And when some of us may be called upon to confront perverse and evil men, remember it is meek and proper to do so. To do otherwise is moral insanity. Lord, deliver us from such "aggressively wicked" men (and women) [or genders].
 - Next week we will look at some of the commands Paul is confident the Lord will direct their hearts to follow.
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APPLICATION

- Although Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy finished their race many years ago, their God is the God of the living. They are with Christ in my mind.
 - Therefore, I occasionally pray directly to Jesus as my intercessor before God. Just as He is given precedence in 2 Thessalonians 2:16, should not we also?
 - “¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”
 - How should we pray? Traditionally:
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9 “In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as *it is* in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

– *Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV*

EXTRA SLIDES FOR BIBLE VERSIONS

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- 3 Finally, brethren, pray for **us**, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with **you**, ²and that **we** may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. - *NKJV*
- 3 Finally, pray for **us**, brothers and sisters, that the Lord's message may spread quickly and be honored as in fact it was among **you**, ²and that **we** may be delivered from perverse and evil people. For not all have faith. - *NET*
- 3 Finally, brothers and sisters, pray continually for **us** that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be honored [triumphantly celebrated and glorified], just as it was with **you**; ²and [pray] that **we** will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not everyone has the faith. - *AMP*
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³But the Lord is faithful, who will establish **you** and guard **you** from the evil one. ⁴And we have confidence in the Lord concerning **you**, both that you **do** and **will do** the things we command you. - *NKJV*

³But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen **you** and protect **you** from the evil one. ⁴And we are confident about **you** in the Lord that you are both **doing**—and **will do**—what we are commanding. - *NET*

³But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen **you** [setting **you** on a firm foundation] and will protect *and* guard **you** from the evil one. ⁴We have confidence in the Lord concerning **you**, that you **are doing** and **will continue to do** the things [which] we command. - *AMP*

₵ Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the
patience of Christ. - *NKJV*

₵ Now may the Lord direct your hearts toward the love of God and the
endurance of Christ. - *NET*

₵ May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the
steadfastness *and* patience of Christ. - *AMP*
