

II Thessalonians 3 – 24 December 2023

“Orderly Living”

Introduction

*In Chap 1, Paul encouraged them to continue strong not falling to the persecution around them

*They should rest b/c evil will be judged

*In Chap 2, Paul addressed the specific problem

*Thessalonians were being told they missed the Rapture and that they're in the Tribulation – Not True

*Now in chap 3 Paul concludes with a discussion of the importance of orderly living

*Word in our text *disorderly* in positive is ‘*orderly*’

Websters 1828 says ‘*well regulated, not tumultuous, it's according to established method, not unruly or inclined to break from enclosures but peaceable*

Bible translates it as *appointed, ordained & addicted*

God has ordered up things for us to do (Acts 22:10)

Be like Stephanos in (Read) I Cor 16:15

Today, we'll look at 3 principles of orderly living

1st principle of orderly living is to pray for chances for the God's Word to bring faith in Jesus (Vs 1-5)

Read Vs 1-2

1. The assumption is that we go everywhere and all we do is share the Word of God
2. There are 3 requests that Paul asks for
 - a. That the Word of God, thru them, would *run freely* thru the towns & hearts of the people
 - b. That the Word of God gets the glory & not themselves
 - c. That they would be able to continue giving out the Word of God
3. Whom do they need rescued from?
 - a. *Unreasonable* men = 'out of place', amiss
 - b. *Wicked* men = mostly translated as 'evil'
 - c. *Unfaithful* men = those independent of God
4. B/c of vs 1, how does Paul want delivered?
 - a. More than wanting these men destroyed, he wants them to receive the Word of God

5. Paul very often asked for others to pray for him
 - a. Think of a time you asked God to make a way for His Word to go into other's hearts?

Read Vs 3

1. Opposite of mankind, God IS faithful
2. Even as Paul's asking them to ask God to deliver him from evil, Paul is confident that God WILL deliver them from evil
 - a. B/c deliverance isn't a matter of if but when

Read Vs 4

1. Paul not only expresses faith in God (vs 3), but also expresses faith in them
2. Don't be so skeptical of people that we won't invest trust in them
 - a. Tell them of this for their encouragement

Read Vs 5

1. We tend to drift away from what is true & need constant course correction to direct our hearts back

2. Is your heart established in these two places?
 - a. Established in the love of God
 - i. This is the power & motivation to serv
 - b. Established in the hope of His soon return
 - i. This is the power to patiently endure all things

2nd principle of orderly living is to role-model it for others (Vs 6-9)

Read Vs 6a

1. The idea is to not have fellowship with the disorderly (Read Eph 5:11-12)
 - a. We give fellowship to the church
 - b. We give the gospel to the worldly
2. Withdrawing is designed to help the disorderly
 - a. It was in the pig pen, apart from all that is good, that Prodigal Son finally saw his need
 - b. Corinthian man living is sexual sin, solution?
 - i. Read I Cor 5:5 – It's for their restoration
 - c. Read I Tim 5:20 – It's for benefit of all

3. But there is a limit to how far we should try with those that don't want restoration (Tit 3:10)

Read Vs 6b-9

1. What does it look like to walk orderly?
 - a. Follow example of godly forerunners (vs 7)
 - i. 'Follow me as I follow Christ' (I Cor 11)
 - b. Labor to pay your own way thru life (vs 8)
 - i. Read Gal 6:4-5 – Labor isn't going to be pain-free since the Garden of Eden
 - c. Be an example that others can follow (vs 9)

3rd principle of orderly living is handling the disorderly (Vs 10-15)

Read Vs 10

1. He's obviously not referring to infants or the infirm, this is the general principle
2. Turn Gal 6:2-5 – If someone needs assistance, they need to also be doing what they can to help

Read Vs 11-12

1. busybody is *'to meddle all around'*
2. When you stop coming home tired at the end of an honest day's work, you begin to stir up trouble
3. Even in the church, each one is about the work that God has crafted them for
 - a. There's no time to be picky with what others are doing or not doing

Read Vs 13

1. Even as the exhortation for the slackers comes to an end, the exhortation to the helpers is to not stop giving – Read Gal 6:9-10

Read Vs 14-15

1. The one in sin is to be cast out of fellowship (as in I Cor 5), if he repents not, treat him as an unbeliever (Matt 18:17)
2. This verse is talking about lazy & slothful one
3. Don't fellowship w/ them... so they'll repent

Closing Benediction (Vs 16-18)

Read Vs 16-18

1. As he opened the letter praying for God's grace and peace upon them, he also closed that way
2. Notice, that we can't have peace apart from knowing the Prince of Peace Himself, Jesus Christ
 - a. It's not deep study that gives us peace, or an experience w/ an angel or supernatural sign, but it's knowing Jesus Himself
 - b. When you've interacted with the risen Lord Jesus, you can run thru walls!
 - c. That is where we obtain peace that passing all understanding
3. Peace comes individually as we accept the grace of God on the cross of our Savior
 - a. Read Luke 2:14
 - b. God offers us peace thru His Son Jesus, but we have to accept it and value it

Conclusion

So there is great benefit in living a well-regulated purposeful life for Jesus Christ

I want to be like the house of Stephanos from I Cor 16

Addicted to the ministry, loving our great King

1. **Let's pray for chances for God's Word to bring people into faith in Christ**
 - a. It's only by the power of the Holy Spirit thru a regenerated heart that behavior changes to the glory of God & benefit of the person
2. **Let's role-model orderly living for others**
 - a. Be the positive peer-pressure that shows your friends the benefits of serving Christ
3. **Let's have a heart to restore the disorderly but separate when needed**
 - a. Both need to be true
 - b. Sin will invade & affect others if allowed
 - c. Having others best interests in mind will compel us to get involved and help