

THIS WEEK

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KAILUA KONA, HAWAII

events

Aloha! Thanks for worshipping with us either online or in person. Please wear your mask before and after the service.

Please sign in your children for **Nursery and Kid's Church**.

Middle School Youth Group
Wednesdays 4:30-6 pm

Men's Breakfast Dec 11, 8 am

Kalehua is updating our **church directory**. If your contact information has changed, please contact her.

The **Food Drive** is Dec 12

Please join us for **Christmas Eve Service** at 6 pm.

Ways to Give:

- Online on our website or app
- Giving box on Sundays
- Mail a check to the church

Giving January thru October

Budgeted - \$279,167

Actual - \$292,55

Andrew, Lead Pastor

andrew@gracekona.org

Kalehua, Ministry Assistant

kalehua@gracekona.org

LouAnne, Children's Director

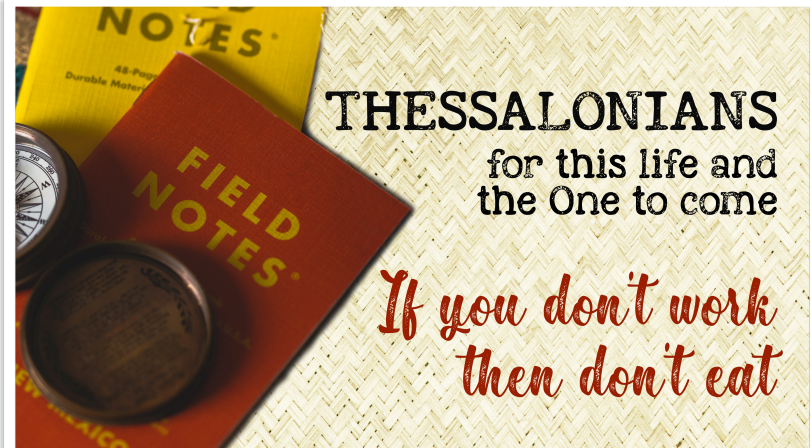
louanne@gracekona.org

Angie, Middle School Director

angie@gracekona.org

Alex, Worship Director

office@gracekona.org



Andrew Severinsen

2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

Big Idea: To end this second letter, Paul takes up one troubling issue present in the Thessalonian church: the sin of idleness (3:6-15). His discussion is prefaced by words of assurance (3:1-5) and concluded with words of blessing (3:16-18)

- God's faithfulness to His chosen ones (2:13-3:5)
- Rebuke of disruptive idlers (3:6-15)
- Letter's conclusion (3:16-18)

GRACE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Prayer and Promise (3:1-5)

- For what two things does Paul request prayer for in verses 1-2? In what sense has verse 1 already “happened among [them]” (see 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2:13)? And who, in this context, are the “wicked and evil men” mentioned in verse 2?
- In verse 1, Paul likens the word of God to a victorious runner. Perhaps Psalm 147:15 is echoing in his head: “He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.” Luke uses similar personification at several points throughout Acts (like Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20). What does such language suggest about the nature of God’s word?

A Word to Loafers (3:6-15)

- How many times does the word “command” appear in this chapter? Why do you think Paul keeps using such a strong word?
- What kind of “tradition” had the Thessalonians “received” (verse 6)? See also 1 Thess. 1:6; 2:13; 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:5, 15.
- Verse 8 is not Paul’s first reference to his example of tireless labor. Where in his first letter did he draw attention to his work-related conduct?
- In verses 8-9, is Paul saying that it is wrong to receive payment for gospel ministry (see also 1 Cor. 9:3-14; 2 Cor. 11:7-9; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18)? What was the nature of his “right” (3:9), and what was his motivation for relinquishing it (see 1 Thess. 2:9)?
- At the end of his first letter, Paul has instructed the church to “admonish the idle” (1 Thess. 5:14). Here in 2 Thess 3:6-15, he zooms in on this issue, since it obviously remained a problem (see verse 11). How does Scripture’s wisdom literature help us understand the nature and dangers of idleness (for example, Prov. 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 19:15; 21:25-26; 24:30-34; 26:13-16; 31:27; Eccles. 10:18)? What do we learn about idleness from the teaching of Jesus (Matt. 25:14-30)?
- In which area of life are you most tempted toward idleness? Take a moment to identify any disordered desires and false beliefs that may give rise to this tendency in your life. How does the gospel counteract the idolatry that leads to idleness?
- It seems likely that 2 Thess. 3:14-15 refers to a final stage in the process of church discipline, just short of excommunication (since the offender in view is still considered a “brother”). What warrants exclusion from fellowship, according to Jesus and Paul (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:1-13)? What is the ultimate goal of formal church discipline (2 Cor. 2:6-8)?

Peace and Grace (3:16-18)

- Why do you think Paul concludes this letter with an emphasis on the Lord’s peace and presence (verse 16)?