

# 2 THESSALONIANS

## 3:1-18 | STUDY GUIDE

### Not Your Enemy

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:1**, "Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you..." (ESV)

- Finally = λοιπός
  - Not a conclusion, but rather a transition
  - Just like the church of Thessalonica, Paul and his team are dealing with tensions and troublemakers

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:3**, "But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one." (ESV)

- Establish = στηρίζω
  - To strengthen
  - Paul sees the church of Thessalonica as continually growing

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:6**, "Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us..." (ESV)

- Not a suggestion: "we command"
  - This is not a rejection of unbelievers
  - The command is about guarding the way in which Christianity is represented
    - Don't allow brothers or sisters to misrepresent the gospel—to say they believe the truth, but live a lie
    - Verse 7: "you ought to imitate us"

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**2 THESSALONIANS 3:10**, "For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat." (ESV)

- These false believers—the same ones responsible for the rumors—were apparently taking advantage of the church, relying on charity
  - 1 Thessalonians makes it clear that these believers were not wealthy
  - Paul is not saying not to help others or to neglect their responsibility to those truly needy, but rather protecting them from those who are creating division and misrepresenting the truth

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:14-15**, "If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother." (ESV)

- Following up on verse 10, Paul clarifies that those they admonish are not enemies
  - This is not about ostracizing those who are stumbling, but rather avoiding enabling them

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2 THESSALONIANS 3:17, "I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write."

- Paul actually signs the letter personally
- This would have been clear and obvious as his handwriting would differ from that of the scribe.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Fant, Clyde E, and Mitchell G Reddish, A Guide to Biblical Sites in Greece and Turkey, Jung Unchan, A Tale of Two Churches