

Paul's Second Epistle To The

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 3:6-18

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TITLE:

“A CHURCH MADE READY“
AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

THEME:

2 Thessalonians 2:2

“Do not be shaken in mind or troubled... either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”

INTRODUCTION: Reading of the Text 3:6-18

**Paul's Specific Desire for the Church at
Thessalonica - Be ready !**

Jesus Offered a Prayerful - Exhortation:

Matthew 24:44

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:42

"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Last Week Paul Taught us about Praying Specifically...
((Suburban's))

In Verses 1 thru 5 of this chapter, Paul really expresses his confidence in the believers there at Thessalonica. They had a faith that was tried and was becoming true!

“A CHURCH MADE READY“

Difficulties,
will often expose what we are really made of

The Church by-and-large had succeeded against the false doctrine that had been gossiped around it and was recovering from its poison

“ Doctrinal error always leads
to Disorderly Conduct ”

1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

“ For the gifts and for the conduct
of the church ”

1.) Staying Committed to the Word vv. 6

*But we **command** you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **withdraw** from every brother who walks **disorderly** and not according to the tradition which he received from us.*

a) Following the Leader's Command

a leader is one who has been given commands and is able to get others to do the same

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

*who walk **disorderly** and not according to the tradition which he received from us.*

b) There are Those Setting the Wrong Example

they walk disorderly among the fellow Christians

((The Lord's Coming, So - Lets Veg-Out))

Paul earlier warned them;

1 Thessalonians 4:11

that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,

IT IS BELIEVED

THAT THE FALSE TEACHING HAD COME FROM THESE LAZY CHRISTIANS

Idleness led to gossip and then to division
(Sometimes a Sheep Dog is Needed)

2.) A Call to Wise Stewardship

vv. 7-10

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us,

This is your church !

(not someone else's - yours)

We've Lost the sense of community

we have garage door openers / we have gated communities /
we have alarmed houses !!!

We've Lost the sense of community

a) Investing in what will work for you

What was the Apostle Paul's Example

(He Invested in the Lives of God's People and in the Furtherance of the Gospel)

Philippians 4:9

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Verse 7b

for we were not disorderly among you;

* Disorderly GRK to walk out of rank or step !

throughout scripture God calls His people to ministry while they are busy at work...

God Will Always Call you While You're at Work

Exodus:3 - Moses was a shepherd

Exodus:33 - Joshua was promoted from Moses' assistant to Commander of Israel

Judges 6 Widen was a wheat farmer when he was called to fight for God

1 Kings 19: Elisha was plowing his field when the invitation came

1 Samuel. David was a keeper of the Flocks when God called him to be king

Psalm 75:6

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the Judge: he puts down one, and exalts another.

Luke 16:10

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much,

Be Involved - Be Investing

((What can I get - What can you give))

God just show me the ministry you want me to be involved in
(you'll see the need)

God just tell me what you want me to do in this situation
(read your Bible)

God just take my life and make it your own
(give it up)

Luke 2:49

And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

If you want to find Jesus - Go to where the Father is Working

John 2:5

His mother Mary said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, **do it.**"

Verse 8-9

b) Investing will require Spending

*nor did we eat anyone's bread **free of charge**,*

*but #1 **worked** with **labor** and #2 and **toiled** night and day, that we might not be a **burden** to any of you,*

- * worked hard work
- * labor hard labor
- * toiled to the point of exhaustion
- * burden 1912 epibareo (ep-ee-bar-eh'-o)
 to be expensive to be overcharged

Verse 9

c) An Observation is in Order

THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE OF “**KINGDOM BUILDERS**”

they don't work, others do it for them. They don't toil, others toil for them. They don't labor, others are laboring for them... **They are a burden**

and here's how to identify them

1. they use people to promote themselves
2. the ministry becomes their stage to display themselves
3. You will hear them say “My Ministry this - My Ministry that”

do they have a vision to reach out to others
or to build up themselves?

((They will be jealous, insecure, totalitarian, hard and unapproachable))
THEY'RE NOT EXAMPLES OF JESUS, NOT OF MINISTRY GOD'S WAY

There are “Christian Music Ministers” that call what they do “ministry”

if it's called a ministry -
then minister - don't charge

If you have a crusade to minister to the lost
trust God to supply the needed resources to do it or don't do it at all

1 Corinthians 9:16-18

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! :17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. :18 What is my reward then? **That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ free of charge,**

There are Leaders who desire "Authority" among the people
- but have no "Stature" witness worthy of the position

((so many hide from the people))

d) True, God Ordained Authority, will not Insist

The Lazy - Challenged Paul's Authority

Who made him the leader anyway?

((Most Leaders Don't Wanna Be))

1. God ordains Leaders
2. God proves them over time
3. their fruit is inspected by all
4. they have a vision for the future - where he's going and how to get there

* * * Leaders Make Mistakes Too * * *

David made alot of mistakes, but the genuineness of his heart for God rallied his soldiers and his nation

- everything David did he did it with a passion for God to be glorified
- everything Jesus did He did it with a passion for God to be glorified
- and everything we do we are to do with a passion for God to be glorified

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

The Jews Glorified Work

(during all the captivities of the Israelis since Egypt, they had been taught a trade or a skill, beginning with Joseph)

The Christian Should Be the Best at what he/she does

There is legend that Jesus, while as a carpenter made the best yokes for oxen that the region had ever seen. Workman would travel great distances to buy one of his yokes... It was said that the animals seemed to perform better with less stress and fatigue than under any other yoke”

Matthew 11:2

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

- A business man should be good at what he does - the Christian business man should be better
- A shoe salesman should be good at what he does - the Christian shoe salesman should be better
- A doctor should be good at what he does - the Christian doctor should be better

TAKE THE DOVE OR THE SCRIPTURE VERSE OFF YOUR CARD
OR YOUR ADVERTISEMENT, - FOR JESUS' SAKE DO IT !

William Barclay said he had a friend who bought a home for a rather large sum of money before he had ever seen the house. When Barclay asked how he could have done such a thing he replied "Well I know that the Builder is Christian, and He builds his houses like he lives his Christianity”

Verse 10

...then let them listen to their s t o m a c h s !!!

3.) Encouraging the Church On v. 11-15

a) Commands for the Idle v. 11-13

The Faithful Christians
were getting discouraged by the conduct of the lazy Christians

THEY WERE BEING BURDENED WITH THE DUTIES OF THE CHURCH

* Busybody GRK 4020 periergazomai (per-ee-er-gad'-zom-ahee);
to walk all around, to spread out

Satan knows better - he will use the Christians against the Christians

a few dissenting members can
destroy a body if not exposed or dealt with

Paul Exposes Their Conduct First (mercy)

- they were "disorderly" they refused to follow orders (out of step)
- they were "busybodies" they had to be in everybody's business (gossip)

A Roman Proverb goes like this;
"By a man doing nothing, he learns the way of evil"

The Hebrew Rabbi's taught this;
"He who teaches not his son a trade, teaches him to become a thief"

GET TO WORK !
by doing so you will begin to see the reality of things

Luke 19:13
in a parable Jesus said to the disciples 'Do business till I come.'

A questionnaire:

1. Are You Investing in the Kingdom? yes or no (circle one please)
2. What is it that you are doing in the Kingdom?
3. Are others blessed by your doing it?

if you are motivated to minister now? Then...

2 Timothy 1:6

I remind you to **stir up** (fan in to a flame) the gift of God which is within you

Verse 13

*But as for you, brethren, **do not grow weary** in doing good.*

* Weary GRK 1573 ekkakeo (ek-kak-eh'-o) or egkakeo to faint, To lose steam or to lose fuel. - no renewing process

* doing good GRK 2569 kalopoieo (kal-op-oy-eh'-o) to do what you know is right

b) Discipline for the Disorderly vv. 14-15

Church Discipline 1-A

((DON'T TALK ABOUT IT - CUZ NOBODY WANTS TO DEAL WITH IT))

Church discipline in the body is what family discipline is in the home

WE ARE NOT TO BE A BUNCH OF SIN-SNIFFERS AND FAULT-FINDERS

There are five (5) levels of church discipline that need to be distinguished in scripture

#1 - Personal Differences Between Christians

#1

Matthew 18:15

"if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. (Not the prayer chain, not your closest friend, not the pastor - alone) If he hears you, you have gained (won & united with) your brother.

#2

Matthew 18:16

"But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that `by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

#3

Matthew 18:17

"And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

Ephesians 5:11

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

#2 - Teaching or Promoting Doctrinal Error

Romans 16:17

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. :16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. :17 And their message will spread like cancer.

#3 - A believer overtaken by a sin

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual **restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

*

- restore means to set the bone again - **To put the bone-head back where he/she was in the body** (peter denied and was later restored. King David fell and was later restored.

Setting the bone takes skill, patience and care

#4 - A Repeated Problem Child

Titus 3:10

Reject a **divisive** (heretic) man after the first and second admonition,

- * the word heretic here means one who gets people to side with him (a manipulator)

the heretic or divisive man;

- has a desire to be important in the church.
- likes to be seen by others
- swells up when recognized
- will need to be in control, or the leader

Warren Weirsbe in his book states that “he has often found that these people are often very emotional and passionate about whatever involves them and from them comes factions and cliques

- Open Immorality, living and continuing in immorality

1 Corinthians 5:13

God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

Then Restore Him Quickly!

2 Corinthians 2:6

This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.

The Goal is;

To Bring Them Back, Into Safety Again

4.) The “How To” of getting the job done vv. 16-18

The Lord !