

Exhortations to the Undisciplined Church

Study 3. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

A. Paul's Request for Prayer. 3:1-5

1. Paul requests prayer from the Church. How does he address them? 3:1a
As _____
2. Paul writes, "Finally, be praying (for us), brothers..." The verb "be praying" 3:1a
 - a. Is an imperative. What does that mean? _____
_____ ¹
 - b. Is present tense. What does that mean? _____
_____ ²
3. Paul's first request (in regard to himself and his helpers) centers around the Word of the Lord. What are his two requests about the Word of the Lord? 3:1b
 - a. That it will _____
 - b. That it may be _____
4. Paul's next request centers around himself and his helpers. 3:2
 - a. What is his request? _____

 - b. Why does he feel compelled to make this request? _____

5. Paul expresses confidence while making these requests. 3:3-4
 - a. First, he expresses confidence in the Lord. 3:3
 - 1) Of what is he confident about the Lord Himself ? He is

 - 2) He is also confident about the Lord's activity, that He will

¹ 3:1 - imperative: This means praying for your spiritual leaders is a command, not an option.

² 3:1 - present tense: This means praying for your spiritual leaders is an ongoing obligation, one that is never completed.

- a) _____ them
 - b) and that He will _____ them from the _____
- b. Paul also expresses confidence in the Thessalonian believers themselves. 3:4. He is confident that they are doing and will continue to do _____.
6. Paul expresses a final request in this section. 3:5. He requests that the Lord may direct their hearts
- a. into _____
 - b. and into the _____.
7. What most stands out to you from this section on “prayer requests” (in 3:1-5)?
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

B. Paul’s Command to Withdraw from Undisciplined Brothers. 3:6-15

1. Paul now turns his attention to an entirely different matter. Apparently there were some Christians (Paul calls them “brothers”) who were not leading disciplined lives.
- a. What were these “brothers” doing to earn Paul’s disapproval? They were _____ 3:6a
 - b. What were they not doing? 3:6c _____
 - c. How were the Thessalonians to whom Paul was writing supposed to do to these “unruly” brothers? 3:6b _____
2. Paul sets up himself and his fellow workers as good examples. 3:7a. How did Paul and his associates *not* act? 3:7b _____

3. What did Paul & company *not* do? 3:8a _____

4. How did Paul & company act in the workplace? 3:8
 - a. How hard did they work? 3:8b _____
 - b. When did they work? 3:8c _____
 - c. Why did they work so hard? 3:8d _____

5. Did Paul and his helpers have the right to be reimbursed for their spiritual ministry? 3:9a _____
6. Why did Paul and his helpers refuse to take pay for serving the Thessalonians in a spiritual way? 3:9b _____

7. Paul's prior command. 3:10. What order had Paul given to the Thessalonians at his first visit in their community?
 - a. If anyone is not _____
 - b. Then, _____!
8. In what circumstances, do you think, could this rule be applied?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
9. What reports had Paul heard about some of the Thessalonians? 3:11.
 - a. They were _____
 - b. They were not _____
 - c. They were _____!
10. Paul's instructions to the undisciplined. 3:12
 - a. How did he phrase his instructions? We _____ and

b. Who was the authority behind his instructions? _____

c. What was the substance of his command?

1) To _____

2) To _____

11. Paul's further instructions to the church. 3:13-15

a. What does he warn the "brothers" against? 3:13 _____

b. What if someone would not obey the Apostolic instruction found in this letter? 3:14

1) Observation: They were to _____

2) Action: They were not to _____

3) Objective: So that person would be _____.

c. Paul gives a final caution toward their treatment of an undisciplined brother who would not follow Paul's instructions in this matter. 3:15

1) Yet do not _____

2) But rather _____

C. Paul's Closing Comments to the Church. 3:16-18

1. Prayer for the Church. 3:16

a. How did Paul describe Jesus? _____

b. What did he request that Jesus would do for them? _____

c. In what circumstances? _____

d. How did he close his prayer for them? _____

2. Greetings to the Church. 3:17
 - a. How did Paul close his letter so they would know it was really he who was writing it? _____³
 - b. How often did he do this? _____

3. Blessing upon the Church. 3:18. What was Paul's closing blessing upon the Church? _____

D. Thinking About It

1. What have you learned about praying from this chapter?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. What have you learned about the importance of Christians leading a disciplined life? _____

3. What have you learned about the Christian way of being "charitable" and "giving" towards other Christians? _____

4. In what practical areas can we put these rules for Christian discipline into effect?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
5. What place does "peace" have in a Christian's life? _____

³ 3:17 - Paul evidently typically dictated his letters to a stenographer. At the end, however, he would always sign his own name in his own hand-writing so they would know the letter was genuine.

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2 Thessalonians 3

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