

Thursday, August 11, 2022 ▫ Read 2Thessalonians 3:13–18

Questions from the Scripture text: What does the apostle call them in v13? What does he urge them not to become? In what might they be in danger of growing weary? To what sort of person does v14 refer? What word, specifically, does he not obey? What two things are they to do with him? Why? As what are they not to count him (v15)? How are they to think of him? what are they to do to him as a brother? Whose action does the blessing in v16 summon? What, specifically, does this verse call him? What will He give them? At what times? In what ways? Who will be with them? How many of them? Who writes v17? Why does he do so with his own hand? What does it show about this letter? From Whom does the final blessing come in v18? What title/Name is He given here? What comes from Him? To whom does it go? To how many of them? How does the letter conclude?

What use ought we make of a genuinely apostolic, inspired letter? 2Thessalonians 3:13–18 looks forward to the second serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **we should persevere in obeying God’s words, from God’s servants, by God’s own personal grace.**

Perseverance is necessary for those who wish to do good. The apostle urges them not to grow weary in v13 precisely because it is so easy to grow weary. The situation that he’s just been addressing is a great example: providing uncomfortable accountability for disorderly brothers. The apostle has had words for many different people in many different situations in this letter. All of these are covered by v14, but there is perhaps a special focus on the lazy ones covered in v6–12.

We see this especially by the command at the end of v14 “do not get mixed up with him, that he may be ashamed.” It parallels closely the command in v6 that they “withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly.” Doing hard things in relationships can become wearisome quickly.

But we must not grow weary! It would be lazy just to write him off. It’s easy just to “count him as an enemy” (v15). The anonymity and immediacy of social media may have amplified it, but the laziness of just counting a brother as an enemy is nothing new. To refuse to, but keep “warning him as a brother” takes perseverance.

This perseverance comes from Christ. How can we persevere in pursuing peace? The Lord of peace Himself will give us peace in every way (v16). The peace of heart that we need to persist in our efforts. The peace of restored relationships and brethren recovered from their sin as a fruit of the Lord’s blessing on those efforts. Ultimately, it is the Lord Himself Who is with us (v16), so that from Him we who deserve only curse receive blessing, and from Him we who have only weakness in ourselves receive strength. This is that “grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” with which the letter concludes (v18).

This perseverance Christ gives by His Word. Here is the great reason to distinguish true Scripture from all other writing. Men’s words cannot avail, because we need not just instruction but almighty, divine grace. And so Paul makes sure that every letter that he writes bears this seal of authenticity: the weak-eyed apostle writes the final greeting in his own, characteristic hand (v17, cf. Gal 6:11). The church was recognizing inspired Scripture as it was written (cf. 1Cor 14:37), because it was dependent upon the grace of the God of that Scripture. He is the One Who has given Himself to us in Christ, and He does so through His Spirit’s blessing upon the Word.

In what good-working have you been in danger of growing weary? Where can you get perseverance for it? How can the good-working be effective? How do your habits show this hope?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving us such good work to do as loving one another and helping one another obey You. Forgive us, when we either slouch into accommodating each other’s sin, or else lazily write each other off as enemies. Grant that we would recognize Your grace, and indeed Yourself, as our only hope, and make us to persevere in doing good, we ask in Your Name, Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP1 “How Blessed the Man” or TPH1B “How Blessed the Man”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Thessalonians three versus 13 through 18. These are God’s words. But as for you brethren, do not grow weary and doing good. And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, Note that person and do not keep company within that, he may be ashamed.

You do not count him as an enemy. But admonished him as a brother. Now, may the Lord of peace himself, give you peace. Always in every way the Lord be with you, all that’s salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle. So I write the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be with you all, man.

It’s the first thing we see is that perseverance is necessary for those who are doing good that’s for you brethren. Do not grow weary. In doing good. We have both the sinfulness that remains from our former nature that resists doing good. And we have the inherent weakness of being finite and fleshly as you all know, because we just had to sleep for about a third of a day.

In order to survive the two-thirds of a day that will remain until the next time we go to sleep. So we’re not to grow weary in doing good. Doing good as hard for us now. It will not be when we are perfected, not only in Seoul but also resurrected embody and have glorious bodies.

One of the things that is most difficult to persist in is doing good to others who are not doing good, is a difficult thing. When someone does not obey the word like verse 14 says, and you have to withdraw from him. But she has already said about the disorderly brother and verse 6.

And so you don't keep company with him. In order to that he would be ashamed. Does not wrong to make someone feel ashamed of things that are right to be ashamed of. This is something that is desperately needed, and we desperately need to recover in our churches because there's this idea that anyone feeling bad about themselves or what they do is always wrong.

No. Actually, you should feel bad when you do bad and you should then fly to Christ and feel good and clean in Christ. It has died for you. So that the relief again of receiving, forgiveness, through him is we'll stir up new love and your thankfulness that someone who has done such, as you have done, could be righteous before.

God could be clean before God. And so, it's not a bad thing to feel badly about doing badly. It's kind of like it should hurt when you put your hand on the hot stove so that you start putting your hand on the hot stove and we're grateful when your burn has healed.

Except for, in this case, it can heal very quickly almost instantaneously. As you remember, the Lord Jesus and His attendant and cling to him. Well, one of the works in which we are not to grow. Weary is by withdrawing company from those who do not obey Scripture. You notice this is not excommunication.

Excommunication is when you don't count them as a brother at all, they're not permitted to have any fellowship at all. This is the withdrawing of that companionship. That ought to that ought to mark believers with whom you are close. The next communication you would draw so much from them.

That the Apostle says in first Corinthians 5 that you can't do that to an unbeliever. So someone who's excommunicated, you would not spend any time with it all or not, great at all. But in this case, we're talking about someone that you would ordinarily. Keep company with but you dial back the fellowship as it were.

We can see that is an enemy or an excommunicant because verse 15 tells us to admonish since a person. Such a person as a brother. Can you tell them here is this sin of what you've been rebuked and you're still doing it? And I don't know, I don't want to be the one who encourages you to feel like everything's okay while you do that.

And I want you to stop it. And if you don't not only will I not be able to spend the kind of time with you have the kind of relationship with you friendship with you, that, that we have previously had, but I will have to keep confronting you. And then I'll have to bring two or three witnesses, and confront you.

And we'll move towards just on, and it could end up the next communication. But this is just a friend, being a friend and say friends don't let friends live disobedient. They're used to be a TV commercial Friends. Don't let friends drive drunk. People were afraid of hurting each other's feelings and telling them that they were too drunk to drive and then they go out and kill themselves or even worse kill others.

Well friends. Don't let friends lift disobediently but you can see you could tell even as you think about it, can't you? That that's a difficult thing to do and so he says, do not grow. Worry, Do not grow weary and doing good. Thankfully, we have an exhaustible source of goodness and endurance May the Lord of peace Himself.

Give you peace. Always in every way. So the Lord Jesus is the one who gives us his peace. We need peace of heart in order to persist our. In our efforts, we need piece of restored relationships as a fruit of the Lord's blessing on those efforts. Ultimately, it's the Lord Himself who is with us.

So we have peace in our hearts peace with others that we want for him to give us but we have peace with him. The Lord be with you all, but then he says the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with be with you all. So we see that it is God's strength for us to have only weakness God's blessing for us who only deserve cars.

That's grace. So we have the grace and peace of the Lord, Jesus to support us. So when you're growing weary, you don't tell yourself. Use stupid self. Why are you growing weary? Stop it. You say I'm not to grow weary in well, doing, but it is the Lord Jesus, who buy his peace.

And by His grace gives me endurance to keep going to keep doing what is right. And so if I'm growing weary, I need to turn my heart to him. You need to pray. Ask him need to make sure that I'm taking not just my refreshment and sleep. But my refreshment in communion with the Lord and worship and reading his word and meditating upon it, make sure that I'm making good use of the public courtroom.

Not just mindlessly. Going through there, thinking about whatever is going on in the room or whatever. Thankfully, none of you have gotten into the sit with friends thing. That's one way to take your focus off of the workshop until yourself. Oh, I can do it because you can't. That's why you're telling yourself, you can, it is much better to sit with your family and worship because your family is a worshipping unit with whom you've been worshipping all the week and those are just situational cues to you, that I'm worshipping God.

Now I'm sitting down with my family and usually when I do this worship God and then there is the wider church family. But it's so easy to grow weary. And while doing and we need that refreshment of soul in Christ and are looking to him and finding peace from him and grace from him.

So that we can rise from our worship. Like your eyes from your bed and you physically are restored, some, and go turn your day, rise from your worship, spiritually restored, something that you grow. And once you get into this habit of life, I think you'll find that when you do not have time for the private worship, or for the family worship, or when you have been distracted in or even not attended, God have mercy and not get us into situations where we're being unable to attend the public portion, but you'll find that once you've establish the side of life, it's similar to going without sleep, you grow weary.

And while doing, if you are not being refreshed in your community with God, So the perseverance comes from Christ and it especially comes by his word sandwiched between the Lord of Peace himself, give you peace. Always and every way the Lord be with you all and the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ me with you all.

Amen. Is the salutation of Paul, That means the closing, greeting of the letter, A salutation is a greeting. He always has an opening greeting and a closing. Well, not always Galatians, didn't get one is just like, I'm Paul. What's the matter with you Actually? No, there is a greeting.

There's just not the Thanksgiving that usually is there anyway. But between the piece of the Lord and the grace of the Lord here, you have the salutation pull with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle. So I write and so he's marking the authenticity of the apostolic epistle with its handwriting, which we know from Galatians, 6:11 was larger than anybody else's handwriting because his eyes were going bad.

And we know that the church was recognizing inspired Scripture, as it was being written. First Corinthians 14:37 says, someone who has the spirit of God needs to or thinks himself. A profit needs to recognize that what Paul writes are the commands of the Lord Jesus. They're not just apostolic commands but apostles are commanding under inspiration of the Holy Spirit from Christ.

And so he puts that right in the middle, in verse 17 in part, because he's he wants to write with his own hand, the grace of our Lord. Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Remember, you're, you can imagine all of the teaching that the Apostle Paul has given how they would understand what that word grace means.

And that the Lord is the Lord and that the Lord is Jesus, who saves us from our sins. And that the Lord is the Christ and how much of his own heart and their own memory, of instructing, and being instructed. Together would go into seeing that sentence and his handwriting and remembrance.

All the times, the spirit blessed to the instruction about those particular words. So that's part of the reason that that's there. But another reason that it's standards between those two things is because the word of the Lord, Jesus is the great way that he gives us his peace. And He gives us his grace because we don't have peace and certainly not strength or goodness from within us.

And so he gives us his word. As a means Word is a way of communicating, not just information, but relationally and he gives us himself. He communicates to us. He has fellowship with us as he gives us His Word and His Spirit ministers, his word to us, and that's how to not grow weary and well, doing very easy to grow weary.

When you're by yourself in something, much more easy to endure when you have someone to help you press on, and all the more. So and that someone with whom you have fellowship in it, is the Son of God who loves you gave himself for you the life that you now live.

You live by faith in him to such a degree that you can even rightly say it is no longer either live but Christ who lives in me. That's the point of the well, that's one of the points of the private worship and the family worship and the public portion and why you want to attend.

Well in each one that you would be thinking about our Lord who has given us this word, who even now is giving us fellowship with him communion within that, we might not grow weary and doing good, may use a blessed to us and let's ask him to do so and prayer.

Lord Jesus. We thank you that it is your own piece and your own grace by which we would not grow weary and well-doing. And so we pray that you would Grant to us even. Now the help of your spirit writing the this portion, second Thessalonians on our arts, bringing to mind what we have been learning and thinking about.

In it that we might learn to walk with. You have fellowship with you and do the hard things. We pray. Lord that you would make us wise about those with whom we intertwine our lives. And that even when we have been a companions with someone that we would love them enough, if they are sluden into some sin or just our disorderly or not living the kind of

Intensely devoted life to you. That we would be willing to withdraw for their good and for ours help us Lord for that is hard. But you have all goodness, all strengthen yourself and all blessedness shortly. If you are with us and we have you as our companion through your word and through prayer, we have more than enough to compensate us for the loss of any other.

So we pray that you would communicates to us our fellowship with you, by your spirit, which we ask in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.