

# ORDERS IN THE 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-18 CHURCH PART 2



**EVERY**

Member | Event | Time

NEW MERCIES CHRISTIAN CHURCH | JOHN 4: 28-30

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 205–208.

## **2 Thessalonians 3:13–18 (NKJV)**

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

**14** And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.

**15** Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

**16** Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.

**17** The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

**18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

# The Exhortation of the Word

2 Thes. 3:6

## 2 Thessalonians 3:6 (NKJV)

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.

# The Example of the Apostle

2 Thes. 3:7-10

## 2 Thessalonians 3:7–10 (NKJV)

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

# The Example of the Apostle

2 Thes. 3:7-10

9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

# The Encouragement <sup>of</sup> the Church

— 2 Thes. 3:11–15

## 2 Thessalonians 3:11–15 (NKJV)

11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

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

# The Encouragement <sup>of</sup> the Church

2 Thes. 3:11–15

14 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.



- 2 Thessalonians 3:13 is the key: “And you, brothers, do not lose heart doing good!” (literal translation)
- The faithful Christians were discouraged by the conduct of the careless saints who refused to work. “*If they don’t have to work, why should we?*” was their argument; and Paul nipped it in the bud.
- Sin in the life of a believer always affects the rest of the church. As members of His body, we belong to each other and we affect each other.

- The bad example of a few saints can destroy the devotion, and hinder the service, of the rest of the church.

- Paul named the sins of this group.
- To begin with, they were “disorderly,” or out of order, out of rank.
- They were disobeying orders, and this brought confusion and division to the assembly.
- Further, they were “busybodies,” not busy workers.
- The Greek word for “busybody” literally means “to be working around”; that is, busy but “fooling around” and not accomplishing anything.

- First Timothy 5:13 suggests that busybodies meddle in matters that do not belong to them.

## 1 Timothy 5:13 (NKJV)

And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.

## Almost every culture has its saying about idleness:

- **The Romans said,** “By doing nothing, men learn to do evil.”
- **Isaac Watts wrote:** “For Satan finds some mischief still, for idle hands to do.”
- **The Jewish rabbis taught,** “He who does not teach his son a trade, teaches him to be a thief.”

- Instead of noisily running around, these people should “with quietness ... work, and eat their own bread.”
- Their false views about the return of Christ had worked them into a pitch of excitement.
- “Your overemotional attitude is wrong,” warned Paul.

- “Settle down and get to work.” Work is a great antidote to unbalanced speculation and unthinking activity.
- But suppose these saints did *not obey God’s Word and go to work? What then should the church do?*
- Paul had already taken the first step when he exhorted them in his first letter and warned them that they were wrong.

# 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NKJV)

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.



- But they had still persisted in their unruly behavior.
- He now warned them again in his second letter, and then added a further step: if these believers did not obey, the members of the church should personally discipline them.

- The subject of church discipline is not discussed much these days. In many churches, once a person is baptized and becomes a member of a local church, he is pretty much left to himself.
- If he commits some gross public sin, he will probably be dealt with by the pastor or the board; but the total church family will not begin to minister to him or exercise discipline over him.
- What is church discipline? For one thing, it is not the pastor and official board acting like evangelical policemen to trap a sinning saint and kick him out of the church.

- No doubt there are churches that have such dictatorial leaders, but this is not what Paul had in mind.
- Church discipline is to the church member what family discipline is to a child: it is an exercise of, and evidence of, correcting love.
- When a parent disciplines his child, he is not a judge punishing a criminal; he is a loving father seeking to make his child a better person.

**When there is  
Personal differences  
between Christians,  
we use the word of  
God, and the church  
to bring us together.**

# Matthew 18:15–18 (NKJV)

**15** “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

**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.’

**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.

**18** “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

- If a brother or sister sins against me (either deliberately or unknowingly):
- I should go to that person privately and seek to get the matter settled.
- Only if the person refuses to settle the matter should I bring anyone else in; and the problem must not go to the church family until every other means has been exhausted.

- The big mistake Christians make when another believer wrongs them is in telling the pastor or other members, and not going to the person directly. Another mistake is in trying to win an argument instead of trying to win the sinning brother.

# Philippians 4:1–3 (NKJV)

**1** Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

**2** I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

**3** And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.



- When there is doctrinal error, determine first of all why the person is teaching wrong doctrine.
- Perhaps it is because of ignorance and lack of Bible knowledge. In that case, patiently teach him the truth.

## 2 Timothy 2:23–26 (NKJV)

**23** But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

**24** And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

**25** in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

**26** and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

# If He Persists, Rebuke Him

Titus 1:10–14

## Titus 1:10–14 (NKJV)

**10** For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

**11** whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

# If He Persists, Rebuke Him

Titus 1:10–14

**12** One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

**13** This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,

**14** not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

*Paul had to do this to Peter.*

## **Galatians 2:11 (NKJV)**

Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;

*If the error continues, avoid him.*

## **Romans 16:17–18 (NKJV)**

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

**18** For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

*Finally if it continues then separate yourself from him (2 Tim. 2:18ff; 2 John 9ff).*

***Finally if it continues then separate yourself from him.***

## **2 Timothy 2:16–18 (NKJV)**

**16** But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

**17** And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,

**18** who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

*Finally if it continues then separate yourself from him.*

## **2 John 9–11 (NKJV)**

**9** Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

**10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

**11** for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.



*A believer overtaken by sin (Gal. 6:1–3).*

## **Galatians 6:1–3 (NKJV)**

**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.

**2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**3** For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

- Even the great Apostle Peter denied the Lord.
- David yielded to lust and committed adultery.

## *A believer overtaken by sin (Gal. 6:1–3).*

- When a Christian is caught in known sin, the spiritual members of the church must seek to restore him with gentleness and love.
- The word restore here means “to set a broken bone”—and that takes tenderness and patience.
- Too often the church quickly passes judgment on a believer who has sinned, and the damage done causes problems for years to come.

**A repeating troublemaker.**

## **Titus 3:10–11 (NKJV)**

**10** Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

**11** knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

- The word divisive does not refer to doctrinal error, but to a proud attitude of one who gets people to “take sides” in the church.
- The Greek word means “to make a choice.”
- This leads to divisions and cliques in the local church (see Gal. 5:20 where heresies ought to be translated “sects, parties”).

# A Repeating Troublemaker

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- There is hardly a church that does not have its parties for or against vision of the church—the pastor, or the building program.
- Usually these “heretics” are people who like to be important; they want a following.
- Often they have deep emotional problems that Satan can use to create spiritual problems in the church.

# A Repeating Troublemaker

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- Perhaps they are frustrated at home or on the job; or perhaps they have, in the past, been hurt by some pastor or church.
- These “factious people” should be given two official warnings.

- If they repeat their sin of dividing the church, they should be given a third warning and rejected.

“Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.

You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned” (Titus 3:10–11, NIV).



## Open immorality (1 Cor. 5)

- The church must mourn over the sinner (the same word is used for mourning over the dead) and seek to bring him to repentance. These “factious people” should be given two official warnings.
- If he refuses, the church collectively should dismiss him<sup>13</sup>, where the Greek word means “expel”). These “factious people” should be given two official warnings.

## Open immorality (1 Cor. 5)

### **1 Corinthians 5:12–13 (NKJV)**

**12** For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?

**13** But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”

If he repents, he must be forgiven and restored to fellowship in the church (2 Cor. 2:6–11).

## **2 Corinthians 2:6–11 (NKJV)**

**6** This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man,

**7** 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.

**8** Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him.

**If he repents, he must be forgiven and restored to fellowship in the church (2 Cor. 2:6–11).**

**9** For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.

**10** Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

**11** lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

- In the case of the “lazy saints,” Paul told the believers to exhort them, warn them, and if they did not repent, withdraw intimate fellowship from them.
- This probably meant that these believers were not permitted to share in the Lord’s Supper, and that the church members would not invite them to their homes.
- Second Thessalonians 3:14 does *not apply to every case of discipline.*
- *It applies only to the matter of saints not working for a living.*

- “Have no company” literally means “do not get mixed up with”; the same word is used in 1 Corinthians 5:9.
- There is a difference between acquaintanceship, friendship, and fellowship; for fellowship means “to have in common.”
- For obedient saints to treat disobedient Christians with the same friendship they show to other dedicated saints is to give approval to their sins.
- However, Paul (knowing the tendency of human nature to go to extremes) cautioned them not to treat the offenders like enemies.

- “They are still your brothers in Christ,” he added.
- Lot was out of fellowship with God and Abraham because he lived in Sodom; yet Abraham rescued Lot from the enemy because Lot was his brother (Gen. 14, and note especially v. 14).
- It requires much patience, love, and grace to help a straying brother; and this is why Paul added a final motive for earning a living.

# The Enablement of the Lord

— 2 Thes. 3:16–18

## **2 Thessalonians 3:16–18** (NKJV)

16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.

17 The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.



- No believer can say, “I am not able to obey God’s Word and go to work,” because God has made every provision for us to obey Him.
- He is the Lord of peace.
- If He is the Lord of our lives, then we will have peace in our own hearts, and we will help to encourage peace in our church fellowship.

- If there is trouble in the church, it is because there is trouble in somebody's heart.
- If Christ is Lord, then there is peace in the heart.
- If there is war in the heart, then Jesus Christ is not Lord (James 4:1–10).

# James 4:1–10 (NKJV)

**1** Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

**2** You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

**3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

**4** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

**5** Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

**6** But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

**7** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

**8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**9** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

**10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- Even though this class member never openly attacked or criticized the teacher, her attitudes and the things she did not say sowed seeds of discord in the fellowship.
- When this problem was dealt with, the Lord of peace took over in the class, and God began to bless.

**Not only does God's peace enable us to obey Him, but so does His presence:**

- “The Lord be with you all!”
- He never leaves us or forsakes us; He is with us to the end of the age (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).

## **Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)**

teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

## **Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)**

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

- Finally, Paul reminded them of God's grace.
- “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all” (2 Thes. 3:18) was Paul's official signature to his letters.

## **2 Thessalonians 3:18 (NKJV)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
Amen.

- He mentioned this because of the counterfeit letter they had received (2 Thes. 2:2).

## **2 Thessalonians 2:2 (NKJV)**

not to be soon 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.



- If we depend on the grace of God, we can do His will to the glory of God. “My grace is sufficient for thee” (2 Cor. 12:9).

## **2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)**

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- The soldier who is out of rank and disobedient of the Lord's command proves that he is not surrendered to his Master.
- Church problems are individual problems, and they must be solved individually.
- God wants order in the church. "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40).
- Are you a part of the peace of the church or part of a war in the church?

Let's do what Joshua did and fall at the feet of the Captain of the Hosts of the Lord, that He might enable us to win the victory, and fulfill His purposes for His people.

# Joshua 5:13–15 (NKJV)

**13** And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?”

**14** So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”

**15** Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.