

The Peace, Presence and Grace of Jesus

2 Thessalonians 3:13 -18 Sermon

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2 Thessalonians 3:13-18 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴If 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. ¹⁵Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

¹⁷I, 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. ¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

- how important is the _____, the presence and the _____ of Christ for you?
- hear this powerful story of a Christian Minister

In 1555, Dr. Nicholas Ridley was sentenced to be burned at the stake in England because of his witness for Christ. On the night before Ridley's execution, his brother offered to remain with him in the prison chamber to be of assistance and comfort. Nicholas Ridley declined the offer saying, "I intend (God willing) to go to bed, and sleep as quietly tonight, as ever I did." Because he knew the _____ of God, he could rest in the strength of the everlasting arms of his Lord to meet his need.

- imagine standing for the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ and then being put to death because you will not bow to things that are not true
- that is a serious understanding of the _____ of the Lord, the _____ of the Lord and the grace of the Lord

- as we see Paul prays that this church would experience these _____ things
- these three things are absolutely important for our faith in Christ

1) Peace of _____

2) Presence of Christ

3) _____ of Christ

- will you pray that these three aspects of the Lord will be with us as a church?

- this will be our last sermon on the book of 2 Thessalonians
- did we learn anything from God's _____ to this church?
- were we changed by the God of grace?
- were we reminded of the _____ of Christ?
- I hope and pray that we all were!

- remember that Paul first _____ the gospel to this church at Thessalonica in Acts 17:1-9
- Paul, as was his custom, went into the synagogue – which is a gathering of Jews and preached "Jesus _____ the Christ"
- but the Jews were jealous of this preaching and did not want the message of Jesus spreading in their city of Thessalonica

- so these _____ created an uproar in the city
- we know from 1 and 2 Thessalonians that this _____ did not stop in Acts 17 but continued till the writing of 2 Thessalonians

- Paul wrote this book for _____ main reasons

1) We know that Paul wrote this book to _____ this church as they faced persecution from Jews and likely Gentiles

2) We know that Paul wrote this book to _____ them in the proper teaching on the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus

3) Paul wrote this book to _____ again, the false teaching of laziness in the congregation

- Paul closes this book with general exhortations and blessings

1) (3:13) Grow in Doing Good

2) (3:14-15) Good Warning

3) (3:16-18) God of Peace and Grace

1) (3:13) Grow in Doing Good

(3:13) As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

- this first word "as" could as well be translated " _____ "

- the "but" is probably preferred because Paul is making a _____ t between how the Christian is to act --"doing good" contrasted with the _____ example of those who are _____ and not working

- so we have just heard about people who are not busy at work, those who are _____, those who are relying on others to take care of them when they _____ take care of themselves

- Paul has just _____ the people who have been misbehaving in this church

- but now Paul gives us a _____ in what we are called to do

- we are not to walk in _____, we are not to be a people who are getting into everyone else's business

- we are to be people "who do not grow _____ in doing good"

- before we get into this command we need to be reminded of what Paul calls these Christians for the 20th and last time in the Thessalonian letters

- He calls them " _____ "

- as he closes off this letter he once again for the 20th time reminds them of the grace and _____ of God

- he reminds them that it is by grace they have been brought into the _____ of God

- because of Christ and His calling, His choosing, His _____ alone through Christ's work, these Christians are brothers and _____ together with Paul under the authority and Lordship of Jesus Christ

- some think that this command only relates to the Christian work _____ found in 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

- but likely this is a general or generic command to do _____!

- meaning we are to do good in _____ areas of our life not just in our work ethic

- note that Paul gives commands like this often at the _____ of his letters

- Paul after dealing with all the problems in the church at Galatia says:

Gal. 6:9 And let us not grow _____ - of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

- Paul after dealing with the _____ issues in the church at Corinth, one of them being _____ about the bodily resurrection of Jesus says this:

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the _____ of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

- what does Paul mean by this phrase “do not grow weary in doing _____”?

- Paul calls them to persist in carrying out “good”

- the “good” that Paul is referring to here is carrying out obedience to God

- as Mark writes, “God is _____” (Mark 10:18) and so we must carry out the actions or attitudes that _____ has declared as good

- in this direct _____ of course, the good is _____ for a living and not mooching off of others when you _____ work for yourself

- but of course Paul also means _____ the whole counsel of God (the entirety of God’s commands)

- we are to carry out the good instructions and commands of the Word of God, because God is good and _____ His Word is good

- Paul calls this church to carry out _____ to His Word!

- we are not to be _____ in doing the good that the Lord commands us in His _____

2) (3:14-15) Good Warning

(3:14) If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter,

- here we see the _____ nature of Paul’s letters

- Paul is very bold here, if people do not embrace and obey the _____ that Paul lays out in this letter we are to have nothing to do with that person

- here we see that Paul’s letters are more than just personal opinion they are _____

- Paul is not a guy who had a stronger personality than the other apostles and took over the church as several people advocate

- Paul writes this letter and is _____ by the Holy Spirit, and therefore His words in his letters are the words of the Holy Spirit

- therefore this letter is _____

- do you remember what Peter says about Paul’s writings?

2 Peter 3:15-16 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you _____ to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

- Peter calls Paul's writings " _____ " and thus they are authoritative and are useful for teaching, rebuking and correction, so that we might be fully _____ for the work of the gospel!

take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him,

- we see the consequences of _____ the Word of God here!

- we often disobey God and think no big deal and then we sometimes _____ in sin and think "no biggy"

- but here we see the consequences of the rejection of the Word of God, we ought to be _____ corrected

- we are to take note or to mark that person

- we see that churches' _____ to uphold the Word of God

- We must not mingle with the person who is claiming to be a Christian but who is in constant _____ of the Word of God. We must not keep _____ with them.

- some see this _____ from God as being completely politically incorrect and _____

- but we need to be reminded these commands that Paul gives are _____ because Paul has been _____ by the Holy Spirit to instruct the church

- Paul explained a similar teaching in 1 Corinthians 5

- do you remember the _____ there?

- a man was intimate with his step-mother (or his father's wife) and the church seemed to not care too much about the situation

- in fact, Paul said they were arrogant about this issue (1 Corinthians 5:2)

- this was a sin that even the Gentiles would not tolerate

- what is the _____ from God's Word in how to deal with such a situation?

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people--¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or _____, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler-- not even to eat with such a one.

¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those _____ the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

- Paul in 2 Thessalonians and 1 Corinthians explains the _____ of church discipline

- we are to _____ the person who is claiming to be Christian who persists in sin and if they _____ the plain teaching of the Word of God we are to have nothing to do with them

- this act of church discipline has a purpose...

that he may be ashamed.

- this act of church discipline (we hope) leads to repentance

- Paul hopes that this person might be _____ – meaning shamed into repentance

- Paul hopes that through the means of church discipline this person is brought to true _____ and a change of _____ to the glory of Christ
- have you ever sinned, then you feel the shame of your sin and then you go to the Lord Jesus Christ seeking mercy and grace and transformation?
- This is _____ which is the end game for church discipline
- church discipline is not about abusing people, destroying people or punishing people, it is about bringing people _____ to the Lord!

(3:15) Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

- just in case anybody gets too carried away, Paul explains himself a little bit more!
- this person who is caught in _____ or rejecting the Word of God, we are not to treat as we would treat an _____
- we all know how we like to treat people we do not like and it is not _____
- we like to avoid an enemy, we like to get back at enemies, but this is not how we are to act towards the brother
- we are to _____ or exhort this person as we would a brother
- often we think that church discipline is such a dirty word that we ought to never carry out such actions
- I heard recently that an associate pastor disagreed with a senior pastor about his views on Covid
- the pastor fired and then kicked this associate pastor out of the church without the due _____ of church discipline
- these are the crazy things that come to mind when we think of "church discipline"
- but here we see that the act of church _____ is to be done in _____ and with patience with the desire for the person to be brought to _____!

3) (3:16-18) God of Peace and Grace

- in this final section Paul prays for three things to be with them as he ends this letter:
 - 1) _____ of the Lord
 - 2) Presence of the Lord
 - 3) _____ of the Lord

(3:16) Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.

- the first _____ request is that the Lord of _____ would give this church peace
- the Lord Jesus is the Lord of peace because His work upon the cross brings _____
- we have brought sin to the table with the Lord, we have brought rebellion to God, but Jesus Christ brings us peace
- Paul describes the _____ Jesus brings in the book of Colossians

Colossians 1:20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making _____ by the _____ of his cross.

- praise the Lord for His _____ of grace, His Son who has brought peace to us through the _____ of Christ

- Jesus takes the punishment for our sin in our place so that our sin can be wiped away and our sin record erased forever through His work
- this work of _____ brings about peace between us and God
- our sin had brought hostility and made us enemies with God, but Jesus has given us peace
- we can be _____ to God through Christ alone!
- Paul _____ at the end of this letter that they would have peace, that they would experience peace with God and the peace of God
- have you ever notice that people outside Jesus Christ lack peace, it is because they have not _____ peace with God and therefore they cannot have the peace of God!

The Lord be with you all.

- this 2nd _____ from Paul is that the Lord would be with them
 - Paul prays that they would have the presence of God with them all
 - the _____ of the Lord Jesus in our lives is a _____ promise of God that He will not revoke
 - do you remember that Jesus was called _____ – which means God with us (Matthew 1:23)
 - do you remember the last words of Jesus to His apostles in the gospel of Matthew?
- Matthew 28:20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am _____ you always, to the end of the age."
- as Paul closes off this letter he prays that the Lord will be _____ them
 - this last year as been hard, but if you are in the Lord Jesus, the Lord has not left you! Praise the Lord!

(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.

- this might seem like a bizarre way to end a letter between 3:16 and 3:18

- first this is how Paul concludes several of his other letters

1 Corinthians 16:21 I, Paul, _____ this greeting with my own hand.

Galatians 6:11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

Colossians 4:18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

- Paul likely has been dealing with people who have been challenging his _____ as an apostle
 - there has even been a person that has been _____ letters in the name of Paul teaching _____ doctrines
 - we saw this in chapter 2 of 2 Thessalonians where Paul is seeking to _____ the churches false teaching on the 2nd coming of Jesus
- 2 Thessalonians 2:2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

- Paul wants them to know that this letter which they have received is from him and has _____!

(3:18) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

- the third prayer request is that the _____ of the Lord would be with them all
- the grace of Christ refers to God's _____, favor or mercy shown to people who do not _____ it

- do you think that you are a Christian because of something that you did by your own power?
- then you are certainly not trusting in the _____ of God
- you are _____ in yourself and _____ in God's goodness to you
- the grace of Christ is Jesus Christ taking upon Himself our sin and giving us His righteousness so that we can be declared spotless and _____ before the Lord

Application

1) The Peace, Presence and Grace of Christ!

- in the movie "Napoleon Dynamite" Napoleon goes to get self-defense lessons at a shady workout place that charges way too much
- the instructor says that in self-defense it is important "that you have someone watching your back at all times"
- I am here to tell you, you do not need to have someone watching your back at all times if you are a Christian because in Christ you have the peace, presence and grace of Christ at _____ times!
- because of _____ we can have peace with God
- peace because of the work of Jesus upon the Cross
- _____ of Christ we can have the presence of God
- God has given us His Holy Spirit to dwell within us by His _____
- because of Christ we can have the _____ of God
- we can have God's _____ rest upon us because of the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ

- did you notice how Paul crafted this _____?

- this letter starts out with the grace and peace of God

2 Thessalonians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- and this letter ends with the _____ and the grace of God

- so Paul wants to remind us of the important _____ of the grace and peace of God from start to finish

- how quick we _____ the wonderful work of the Lord Jesus on the Cross?

- but Paul as he deals with these three major issues in the church:

1) persecution

2) _____ teaching of the 2nd coming of Jesus and

3) laziness, has the grace and peace of God in the forefront

- as a believer do you emphasize the grace and peace of God in your life?

- do you _____ Jesus because of His work, promises and grace?

- if you are outside the Lord Jesus Christ consider the peace of God offered to you through Jesus Christ

- because your _____ has put you in a "not peaceful" situation with God

- consider the grace of God; Jesus takes sin upon Himself, the sin of His enemies so that they can

_____ God's favor

- this sinful world offers you pleasure that is _____ pleasurable and sin leads to despair and in the end death (separation from God forever)

- so get serious about the Lord and His grace and _____ from your sin and

_____ in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ

2) Be Diligent in Doing Good

- this is a dangerous application, just by the plain fact that so many people think that by “_____ good”, that this makes them a Christian and therefore they are going to _____
- so many people are trusting in their “_____” works to get them into heaven
- but our works do _____ save us
- our works have only exposed that we _____ a savior ---the Lord Jesus Christ

- but _____ we are saved by grace we are called to live out “the good” that God has commanded us
- this week and the rest of our lives, let us be diligent not only to avoid _____, but be diligent in our _____ to God’s commands
- please be reminded as well that “_____” should never be defined as the world defines good, but how God defines good!
- let us strive to live _____ and _____ lives because of 1) the _____ of Christ given to us 2) the _____ of Christ given to us and 3) the _____ of Christ given to us in the person of the Holy Spirit

- Paul helps us understand what this “good” looks like at the end of 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5:14-21 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for _____, but always seek to do _____ to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ _____ without ceasing, ¹⁸ give _____ in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good.

- let us be a church who exalts Jesus and His work but as well holds fast and is diligent to do _____!
- if there is something that is “not good” in your life, put it to _____, seeking the mercy of Christ

