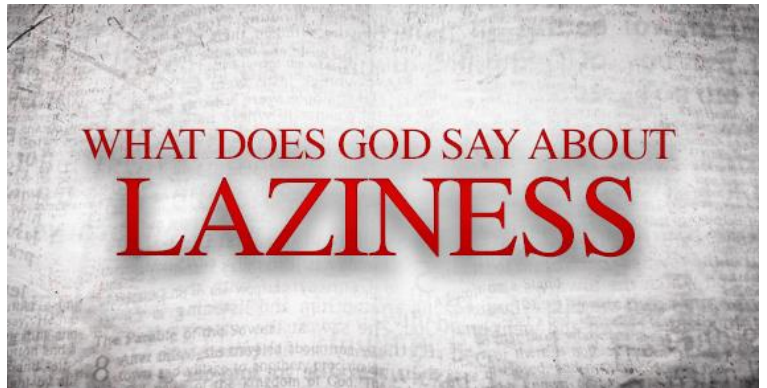
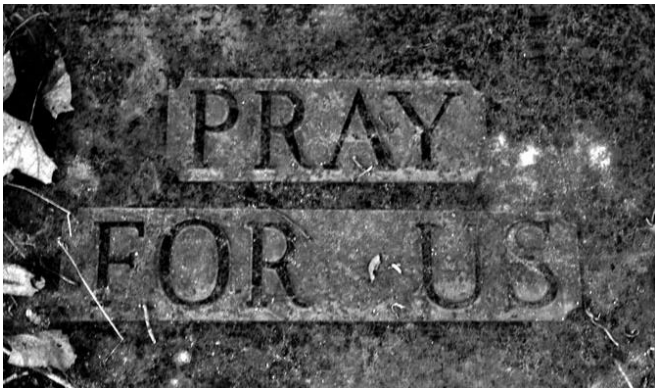




Paul asks the Thessalonian saints to withdraw from association with unruly believers who are not working but are spending their time bothering others in the assembly. These disorderly believers should be admonished to work hard for their own upkeep and follow the example of the apostle in the matter. Paul signs his name, extending blessing to the Thessalonians in the hope that they might experience God's grace and peace.

Outline

- Preview Introduction
- Pray for Us 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5
- Warning Against Idleness 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15
- Benediction 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18



Truths & Principles

- ✓ The gospel does not always find receptive hearts.
- ✓ God is faithful in every respect.
- ✓ All believers who can work should do so with integrity and industry.
- ✓ Believers should model responsible behavior before their families and others.
- ✓ Believers should help but not presume to run their lives.
- ✓ The goal of church discipline is restoration.

Applications

- ✓ We should not become discouraged when people reject the gospel, but pray fervently that God will open their hearts to Christ.
- ✓ We should build a reputation for hard work, personal integrity, and a willingness to go beyond the minimum requirements of a job.
- ✓ We should develop a reputation for kindness, helpfulness, and tact. We should refuse gossip, use our time wisely and not succumb to laziness.



Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

1. What does Paul pray will run swiftly and be glorified (3:1)? _____
2. Who does Paul pray to be delivered from (3:2)? _____
3. Who will establish you and guard you (3:3)? _____
4. What confidence does Paul express in this verse (3:4)? _____
5. Paul prays that the Lord will direct their hearts where (3:5)? _____
6. What is Paul's command in this verse (3:6-12)? _____
7. What encouragement does Paul offer in this verse (3:13)? _____
8. What does Paul say should be done to those who do not obey (3:14)? _____
9. How should we treat the one who does not obey (3:15)? _____
10. Who is the giver of peace (3:16)? _____
11. What is Paul's standard signature on his letters (3:17-18)? _____

Study Questions

1. Paul realized the importance of prayer. He wanted the Thessalonian believers to pray for him, just as he prayed for them. Paul asked them to pray that the word of the Lord might run swiftly and be glorified, and that he would be delivered from the unreasonable and wicked men. He prayed that their hearts would be directed into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. Consider Paul's prayer in VERSES 1-5.
 - ❖ Are your prayers like those of Paul? Are you praying for perseverance?
 - ❖ Are other believers praying for you? Are you praying for other believers?
 - ❖ Paul could say that he was an example to follow because he labored in love without compensation by men. Is your lifestyle an example to others?
2. Reflect on Paul's command to work in VERSES 6-15. Laziness has no place in a believer's lifestyle. A person who can work should work and not be supported by others.
 - ❖ What do you consider your job? How do you see it in relation to God's kingdom?
 - ❖ What is your attitude toward work?
 - ❖ Are you a lazy believer? Do you know any lazy believers?
 - ❖ What do you think of Paul's prescription for dealing with the lazy believer, i.e., warn them, command them to work, separate them from fellowship, and admonish them?
3. Ponder Paul's use of the phrase "do not grow weary in doing good" in VERSE 13.
 - ❖ What "good" is Paul referring to?
 - ❖ How can you "grow weary in doing good"?
 - ❖ How can you "not grow weary in doing good"?