

[The Book of 2 Thessalonians](#)

Chapter 3 “Finally...”

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There is an old Chinese proverb that says: “**He who deliberates fully before taking a step will spend his entire life on one leg**”

As we finish the Books of first and second Thessalonians, we are encouraged this morning to not spend our Life Thinking about and Deliberating about living for Jesus....LET’S DO IT...

- 1 **Finally**, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,
- 2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.
- 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.
- 4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

Finally, brethren, pray for us.

1. **I don’t know why, but Prayer is always the “Finally” for most of us.**

- **Why is it** that after everything else has been thought of, everything else has been tried, we finally say “Hey why don’t we pray”
- **Sometimes** when I come in early on Sunday or the mid week service I just watch everything that is happening in the church. All of the activities and the way that everyone is interacting.
- **I notice many times** that people are a little stressed, getting up early to get to church early to practice and get everything prepared for the service. (*In case you don’t know, there are many dedicated people here that arrive early and stay late just to make sure that you are blessed when you arrive here.*)
- **I try to get the worship team together** to pray first for just a few minutes to get our focus on Jesus and off of ourselves or whatever has happened before we got here.
- **Prayer should always be** the first thing we do or think of when we begin anything. When we are stuck on something, or when we need wisdom or when we don’t know what to do.

Here Paul tells the believers at Thessalonica as he is about to finish his letter (*Don’t you love it when the pastor says, “Finally”, because he is almost done!*) **Paul concludes this letter by just asking them to Pray for him...**

- **How grateful I am to you** who pray for us. I think that you must realize that it is only because of prayer that we have a church here or are able to do anything here for the Lord.
- **I personally do not believe that our church is growing because I or Dean are here.** I don't think it is because of anything except the Lord honors those that do pray for this ministry by gradually growing it.
- **That having been said,** if you really want to see this ministry grow and effect the lives of people here in our community and other places, you need to pray for us.
- **Without prayer,** nothing is going to happen. Without prayer, we cannot do anything.

2 Thessalonians 3

1 Finally, brethren, **pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly** and be glorified, just as it is with you,

So, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as with you.

1. **Notice that it is the WORD** that Paul says that will run swiftly, not Calvary Chapel, or Rob Robinson, or anything else, it is the WORD of GOD that is always to be our focus.
2. **It is the Word of God** that I have chosen to focus on here, and the teaching and how to apply it to your lives.
3. **We are constantly approached** by people here in the 2 fellowships that tell us that since they have been coming here to Calvary Chapel they are growing and learning so much.
4. **This is not because of Dean or Myself,** it is because we lift up, teach and explain the scriptures to you.
5. **The Lord only promised to bless His word.** Not Rob or Dean or our particular style of ministry, He promised to Bless His Word.
6. **In Fact,** the Lord said that "He Magnifies His word even above His own name!"

Psalms 138:2

I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; **For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.**

7. **So, pray for us** that we will be able to continue to make our focus here the Word of God, the teaching and application of His Word.

2 Thessalonians 3

2 and that we may be delivered from **unreasonable and wicked men;** for not all have faith.

Pray that we will be delivered from unreasonable men...

1. **For me,** one of the hardest things is this verse.

2. **I love you all, I love to teach you** the Word and minister as I am able, but it just seems that everyone who sincerely is trying to just teach and Love and encourage people, faces people that are unreasonable.
3. **They seem to Major on the Minors**, pick out the things that you are not doing or not doing well and constantly bug you about this stuff.
4. **We have even had people actually leave** the fellowship because of the stupidest things. For me, this is the hardest thing, and not I only, every pastor I know goes through this, UNREASONABLE PEOPLE.
5. **May I say that most of our people are extremely loving, patient with me, and leave me alone to do the best that I can, so I am not complaining, because we are so blessed by the people here in Winslow and Holbrook.**
6. **You know how it is**, you are doing the best job you can at work, or in your family, trying to do your best with a sincere heart, and someone comes along and begins to pick you apart.
7. **May I say to you**, as believers, it would be very easy for each one of us to pick apart each of our faults.
8. **The hard part** is to notice, point out and encourage each other in the positive things of each of our life.
9. **This is what** we are supposed to be doing.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

So comfort and encourage each other with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Hebrews 10:24

Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.

10. **You won't find it in the word**, "Brethren, Pick on each other, find out each others faults and really focus on them..."

So pray for us that we will keep our focus on the Word of God, Loving you, and encouraging you and that we will not be discouraged by unreasonable people...

And remember, If you want all of us to really reach people with the awesome news of what Jesus has done, PLEASE PRAY EVERYDAY FOR US...

2 Thessalonians 3

- 3 But the Lord is **faithful**, who will **establish you** and **guard you** from the evil one.
- 4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

You know, we could begin a whole new kind of church this morning, based just on this verse:

“The first church of the Faithful Lord who will establish and Guard you”

1. The Lord is Faithful...
2. The Lord will Establish you...
3. The Lord will Guard you...

Probably 3 of the most important things that we all need to hear.

1. **We need to be reminded that the Lord is Faithful,**
 - He will always come through for you.
 - He will never fail you.
 - He will never disappoint you.
 - He will never forsake or leave you.
 - He is with you right now through every event of your life, even when you don't feel Him or sense that He is doing anything...He is doing everything!
2. **The Lord will establish you.**
 - Notice that it doesn't say Pastor Rob or Dean will establish you.
 - It doesn't say, hard work and determination will establish you.
 - It says, Jesus is the One that is going to establish you! Aren't you glad?

Jeremiah 33:2

“Thus says **the LORD who made it**, the LORD **who formed it to establish it** (the LORD is His name):

1 Peter

5:10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after you have suffered** a while, **perfect, establish, strengthen,** and **settle you.**

How many of you want to be PERFECTED, ESTABLISHED, STRENGTHENED AND SETTLED?

- **Then Notice first of all**, in Jeremiah, The Lord Made you, He formed you for the purpose of establishing you.
- **Well then**, how does the Lord establish you? He is establishing you right now as you sit here and take in the Word of God. He is establishing you through all of the things you have going on in your life right now.
- **The Lord also made the situations** and trials and difficulties of your life, He formed them for the purpose also of establishing you.
- **Notice that Peter also says**, “After you have suffered for a while, the Lord will Perfect, Establish, Strengthen, and finally Settle you.

It is through many difficulties that we learn, grow, and are trained and established by the Lord...

3. **The Lord will Guard you from the evil one.**

- **As I have taught you before**, if you have not given your life to Jesus yet then you are completely open and vulnerable to anything that satan wants to do with you.

Ephesians 2:2 Paul told the Ephesian believers:

...in which **you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Acts 26:18

to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and **from the power of Satan to God**, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

- **There are Principalities and Powers** in the Spirit realm over this earth with Satan as their captain.
- **If you do not belong to Jesus**, then you are unknowingly satans pawn. He can do virtually anything he wants to do with you or your life.

On the other hand, if you have received Jesus as your Savior and Lord, then satan and his demons have absolutely no power over you whatsoever...

Luke 10:19 Jesus Said:

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and **nothing shall by any means hurt you**.

John 17:15 Jesus prayed and asked the Father:

I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that **You should keep them from the evil one**.

There is a doctrine that is widely circulated today in the church that says that satan can “posses” a Christian.

- **If you struggle with over eating**, you have “The demon of gluttony”.
- **If you struggle with sickness**, you have “The demon of infirmity”
- **Whatever struggle you have**, you must surely have the demon of that manifestation.

This is the opinion of man, and sometimes even a part of church tradition, but **it is not taught in the Word of God**, therefore it is a lie.

In case you haven’t understood yet, Calvary Chapel is about the Word of God.

- **We therefore Honor the Word of God** above everything else, because the Lord said that He honors His Word above even His own Name. (Psalm 138:2))
- **We place great emphasis** upon the teaching of the Word of Gods, and how you can apply it to your own life.

- **If it is not in the Word of God**, we do not believe it, no matter who's tradition it is or what anyone else might say.
- **For this reason** I get into trouble sometimes with people, because they will often say, "Well you have some very strong opinions..." **No, I am not teaching my opinions, I am just telling you what is written there in your Bible, it is the Word of God, and I will not compromise on the Word of God!**

So, the bible does not teach that satan or demons have any power over you if you are "in Christ" today, end of the story.

And he promises you here in 2 Thessalonians chapter 3 that "The Lord will Guard you from the evil one..."

2 Thessalonians 3

4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

Paul expresses his confidence that for someone who says they belong to Jesus, they are doing right now, and will continue to do what Jesus has **COMMANDED** then to do.

- **In 1 Thessalonians**, there are 22 **COMMANDMENTS** that are listed for the person who claims to follow Jesus.
- **Before you were saved**, there were 10 commandments, with the purpose that after you saw those 10 commandments you would just be honest and say "I can't do these, if these are what is required for me to be saved, I am hopeless".
- **Then you would find**, as you study the Bible with us, that Jesus came and fulfilled every requirement of the 10 commandments for you.
- **That if you will completely give your life to Jesus**, then you also completely fulfill every requirement God has made of you. **YOU ARE SAVED, AND HAVE HEAVEN!**

John 14:15 Jesus said:

"If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Religion says this verse like this; "IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS!, OR ELSE!"

Jesus said it like this: "If you are in love with me, then you will want to keep my commandments, they will not be difficult or burdensome, but will be a joy to you..."

- **I have said it before**, if you are in love with someone, then you just naturally want to do those things that are pleasing to the one you are in love with.
- **The focus then is not** to just be doing the things Jesus **COMMANDED** us to do, but to be developing a **RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus where we are falling in love with Him.

Ladies, Gentlemen, how did you fall in love?

1. By spending quality time with this person.
2. By Talking to them.
3. By listening to their heart.
4. By getting to know them.

So how then will you fall in love with Jesus?

- **By spending quality time** with Jesus, in His Word.
- **By Talking to Him**, through prayer.
- **By listening to Jesus Heart**, by waiting upon Him.
- **By getting to know Jesus consistently**, over the course of time.

If you just try to do what Jesus COMMANDED you to do, without falling in love with Him, you won't be able to do it consistently, and you won't really want to do them!

Now, having said that, let me balance it!

- **There are many moments** in our life when **WE DON'T WANT TO DO IT!**
- **There are many times** when **WE DON'T "FEEL" LIKE IT"**.
- **In those moments**, for the believer in Jesus, we are to **DO THEM IN OBEDIENCE"**.

1 Samuel 15:22

So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

Romans 6:16

Don't you realize that whatever **you choose to obey becomes your master?** You can choose sin, which leads to death, **or you can choose to obey God and receive his approval.**

Feelings Follow Obedience.

Obedience does not Follow Feelings.

- **If you are waiting** for the time where **you want to do** what Jesus said to do, then **you will never have the feelings to want to do them.**
- **But if you here the Word of Jesus** and Respond to it in obedience, THEN YOUR FEELINGS WILL FOLLOW YOUR OBEDIENCE!

2 Thessalonians 3

5 Now may the Lord **direct your hearts into the love of God** and **into the patience** of Christ.

1. **It is during times of your life** where you are really struggling in a difficulty that we sometime wonder in our heart, "**Does the Lord really Love me?**"
2. **Satan's tactic from the beginning**, in the Garden with Eve, was to get here to question the love of God...

Genesis 3:1-5

- 1 Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the creatures the LORD God had made. “Really?” he asked the woman. “**Did God really say** you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?”
- 2 “Of course we may eat it,” the woman told him.
- 3 “It’s only the fruit from the tree at the center of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God says we must not eat it or even touch it, or we will die.”
- 4 “**You won’t die!**” the serpent hissed.
- 5 “**God knows** that your eyes will be opened when you eat it. You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil.”

Satan was seeking to get Eve to question God’s motives, and whether what God had said was really love at all!

This is where the rest of verse 5 comes into importance:

...and **into the patience** of Christ

1. **If you will wait long enough** on the Lord in any situation, you will find that He will work it all out.
2. **But we are so impatient,** we don’t like to wait.
3. **We try to do something** about our situation our self.
4. **When we do something** about it, the Lord stops doing anything.

In Genesis chapter 15, God told Abraham that He and his wife Sarah would have a son, and the Lord would make through Abraham and Sarah, so many descendants that they would not be able to count them.

1. **Abraham was about 77 years old** and Sarah, perhaps in her 60’s at the time that the Lord made this promise.
2. **They had not ever in their lives** been able to have any children.
3. **After about 9 years,** Abraham and Sarah still did not have the son that the Lord promised them.
4. **They decided** that perhaps they needed to do something themselves, Help poor God out a bit.
5. **It was culturally acceptable** for Abraham to take Sarah’s handmaid and have a son by her, this would then be Abraham and Sarah’s son.
6. **The son that was born** by Abraham and Sarah’s handmaid was called “Ishmael”.
7. **Abraham thought** that the Lord would honor his attempt at helping God by letting Ishmael be the fulfillment of his promise.
8. **But the Lord never honors** any work that we do of our own flesh!
9. **When Abraham was 100 years old,** and Sarah about 90, God finally gave them the son that He promised them.
10. **The Lord waited** until it was beyond all possibility in human terms that Sarah would be able to have a child of here own, then the Lord did it!

The son that was born to Abraham and Sarah through Hagar the Egyptian handmaid was Ishmael, the father of All of the Arab people alive today.

- **Because Abraham** would not wait upon the Lord to fulfill His promise.
- **Because Abraham** did something about it himself.
- **Ishmael was born**, the source of all of the conflict today between Israel and the United States and the Arab nations.
- **Isaac was the one born** from Abraham and Sarah's own body when Abraham was 100 years old.
- **If Abraham would have just waited** on the Lord, there would not have been Gulf War 1 and 2!

Genesis 15:2

But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, **what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son?** Since I don't have a son,

Genesis 15:5

Then the LORD brought Abram outside beneath the night sky and told him, "Look up into the heavens and count the stars if you can. **Your descendants will be like that—too many to count!**"

Genesis 16:1-2

1 **But Sarai, Abram's wife, had no children.** So Sarai took her servant, an Egyptian woman named Hagar,
2 and gave her to Abram so she could bear his children. "The LORD has kept me from having any children," Sarai said to Abram. "Go and sleep with my servant. **Perhaps I can have children through her.**" And Abram agreed.

Genesis 17:18-19

18 And Abraham said to God, "**Yes, may Ishmael enjoy your special blessing!**"
19 But God replied, "**Sarah, your wife, will bear you a son. You will name him Isaac, and I will confirm my everlasting covenant with him** and his descendants.

So, the idea behind verse 5 here is that the Lord will always direct your heart back to the genuine love that the Lord has for you, whenever you are in a trial, and that you will have and develop more patience to wait for Him to finish what He started.

2 Thessalonians 3

5 Now may the Lord **direct your hearts into the love of God** and **into the patience** of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3

6 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.

“Withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the Tradition...”

1. **Because of this verse**, here are some churches that teach that their church tradition takes precedence over everything else.
2. **There are many traditions** found in churches today that have no authority from the Word of God. They are simply “Tradition”.

It is important to notice here that Paul finished his statement in verse 6 by saying ‘According to the tradition you received from us’

- **In other words**, “Traditions that are according to the doctrines from the scriptures that you have already been taught”
- **Tradition is alright**, as long as it has from the Word of God, it’s authority.

Some of the traditions today, that are being taught as Doctrine or the Word of God, that have no authority from the Word of God are;

1. Making Mary co-redeemer along with Jesus.
2. That you must work to earn your salvation.
3. That a living prophet has more authority than the Word of God.
4. That their church is the only one that is saved or has the truth.
5. That you cannot lose your salvation no matter what you do.
6. That a deviant sexual lifestyle is acceptable to God.
7. That the church has to go through the Tribulation period.

There are hundreds of other “Traditions” that are taught in churches all over the world as “Doctrine” but have absolutely nothing to do with the Word of God.

The following are a few basic guidelines to follow when determining if a scripture actually supports a tradition or doctrine:

- **Who is that verse** of scripture written or directed to. The church, or Israel?
- **Can this tradition** or Doctrine be proven by at least 4 scriptures from the bible.
- **Make sure that the context** or subject of what that scripture is talking about is about the actual subject you are seeking to prove.
- **Make sure it is not in conflict** with any other scripture.

2 Thessalonians 3

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,

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

John 13:15 Jesus said:

For **I have given you an example**, that you should do as I have done to you.

- **How did Jesus speak**? With grace, balanced with The Scriptures, always with the intention and motivation to love.
- **How did Jesus Live**? A life of purity, Loving the Father in every second of His life, doing everything he did out of Love and obedience to the Father
- **Jesus was not caught up** in all the things of the world, and yet loving all those who are themselves caught up in the world.
- **Spending time with** and loving those who don't know God but not taking on their sins himself.

Jesus lived just so He could die for us.

We are to live for Jesus by dying to our old self.

Philippians 3:17 Paul said:

Brethren, **join in following my example**, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

1 Timothy 4:12 Paul encouraged Timothy

Let no one despise your youth, **but be an example to the believers in word**, in **conduct**, in **love**, in **spirit**, in **faith**, in **purity**.

You who belong to Jesus this morning, do you know that you are “Living Epistles?”

- **Every person in your life** is reading a book called “YOU”.
- **They may never read the bible**, but they are reading you.
- **If they taste, and smell and see Jesus in your life**, then they will develop their own thirst and Hunger for Him.

2 Corinthians 2:15

For **we are to God the fragrance of Christ** among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for **a sweet-smelling aroma**.

What kind of fragrance are you putting out this morning?

1. **Jesus said** follow His example, Live, say and do what He said , Did and Lived.
2. **Paul said** use him as a pattern.
3. **If you follow the example of these**, you will emit the sweet smelling perfume of Jesus!

2 Thessalonians 3

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

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**.

- **For the Christian**, we are to Work with out own hands, Live a quiet life style and mind our own business.

1 Thessalonians 4:11

that you also aspire to **lead a quiet life**, to **mind your own business**, and to **work with your own hands**, as we commanded you,

1. **We are not to try** and get something for nothing, sponging off others or the government.
2. **We are not to talk about other people** or their lives, because it is Gossip.
3. **We are to simply just work in quietness** and enjoy and be satisfied with whatever we have at the present time.

King Solomon accumulated more Money, Possessions, and pleasure than any person that has ever lived on the earth, and at the end of all it, he said that it was all emptiness, it did not satisfy him.

Then he said something to us:

Ecclesiastes 3:13, 19

And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.
19 ... To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—that is indeed a gift from God.

Did you get that?

1. **To just enjoy what you already have** right now and be satisfied with it, is a gift from God.
2. **Most people** spend most of their life always wanting more.
3. **Solomon said** “Hey I did that and I was never satisfied”.
4. **If you can learn to enjoy** what you have right now, you will be a blessed person, more so that the one who always wants more.
5. **And to also realize** that it all comes from the hand of the Lord...

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

- **Everything you have** the Lord designed for your personally to either have or not have.
- **If you have a lot**, be grateful, satisfied and share it with others.
- **If you have a little**, be grateful, satisfied and share it with others.

Hey wait a minute Pastor Rob, you said the same thing to both the one who has a lot and the one who has a little.

YOUR CATCHING ON! So what is the secret to true happiness in this life?

Ecclesiastes 3:19

...To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life

Just kick back, enjoy every moment of your life and accept whatever you have or that comes your way...

2 Thessalonians 3

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.

Paul's final closing instructions for this letter are in the form of instruction:

1. **Continue to do the right things** in your life, don't give up.
2. **If there is someone in your church** or fellowship who is living a life contrary to the way they should be living if they belong to Jesus, don't hang out with them on a continual basis,

And yet THEY ARE NOT THE ENEMY, GO TO THEM AND ADMONISH AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO WALK A LIFE WORTHY OF WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR THEM!

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.