

II Thessalonians – Chapter Three

Military Terms used: GUARD – protection against assault; DISORDERLY – to be out of step or to break rank (on purpose). Other terms used: DIRECT – to remove obstacles that stand in the way; WITHDRAW – gather your robe and walk away; to disassociate oneself from another; NOT KEEP COMPANY WITH – do not mix yourself up with them. NOTE – to mark publicly so that the other brethren know that a certain behavior is disapproved of.

v.1,2 – Paul asks them to pray so that the gospel may spread rapidly, and that they be delivered from “unreasonable and wicked men”. For all men have not faith.

v.3-5 – But God is faithful, who will stablish (strengthen) and keep you from the “evil one”. Paul had confidence in the Lord in them to help them to follow the word of the Lord which came through him. And God will direct your hearts (remove obstacles that stand in the way) into more love for God and in being able to endure trouble while waiting on the Christ’s return. Same endurance that Christ himself exhibited.

v.6 – Paul commanded them, with authority, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. that they withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly and not after the word and instructions that he gave them. More specifically, that one who refused to work—he had in the previous letter told them to give these a warning, now he was being stronger in his word. The disorderly soldier wilfull resists leadership by marching incorrectly or abandoning his watch; its ongoing and on purpose.

v.7-10 – Paul and his comrades as examples: you imitate our example for you know how we behaved. Although we were within our rights to expect support, we did not obligate you to take care of us, but we worked for our own bread. (I Cor. 9:11,18; I Tim. 5:17,18) And Paul instructed that if a man did not work, he should not eat. If can work, he should and not live off the charity of others, charity which should go to those who cannot work.

v.11-15 – There are (still) those among you who are disorderly, refusing to work, but are BUSYBODIES (I Tim. 5:13) (meddling in the affairs of others) Paul commanded and exhorted, by the Lord Jesus, that they begin to work and support themselves. But those doing good, working giving charitably to those who were truly in need, were to continue: Be not weary in well doing. Those disorderly ones who obey not this instruction are to be noted, and brethren should not keep company with them. Dr. David Jeremiah says the practical application today would be: “do not be influenced by troublemakers. Do not join in their pursuits or let them whisper destructive things in your ear.” But remember they are not your enemy; they are your brother, and all of your action should be to make them ashamed, bring them to repentance, and restoration.

v.16-18 – In closing, Paul prays that the Lord of peace gives them peace (they need it) , confirms that he has signed this letter (authenticity), and prays the grace of the Lord be with them.