



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Staying Ready for the Second Coming”

LESSON #3 = Exhortation for the Church

Text: II Thessalonians 3



Introduction: Why are you here on the first day of the week? Are you here to be encouraged or exhorted? Paul told Timothy to “*Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching*” (II Timothy 4:2). What does that mean? In this final chapter, Paul is going to exhort the brethren at Thessalonica to focus on at least four things. Each of these things will help them stay ready for the second coming of Jesus. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Be Compassionate In Prayer (vs.1-2)

¹Finally, 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.

II. Be Confident In Christ (vs.3-5)

³But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. ⁴And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. ⁵Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

III. Be Challenged In Your Work (vs.6-15)

⁶But 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. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; ⁸nor 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, ⁹not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. ¹²Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. ¹³But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

IV. Be Captivated By Peace (vs.16-18)

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all. ¹⁷The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write. ¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Conclusion: We need to get ready, stay ready, and wait for God to do His thing, in His own time, and in His own way. While we are watching the sky, and waiting for Him to call our name, He will begin to work on our heart. Do you know where you are headed? Are you ready to meet Jesus? If not, make things right today! However, you may have your spiritual bags packed. You may know where you will spend eternity. But if you are ready, shouldn’t you try to take as many people with you as you can? There is still time to exhort others to get ready for the second coming of Jesus! What should you do?