

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

2 Thessalonians 3:1-3

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

¹Finally, brethren,
pray for us
that the word of the Lord
will spread rapidly
and be glorified,
just as *it did* also with you;
²and that we will be rescued
from perverse and evil men;
for not all have faith.
³But the Lord is faithful,
and He will strengthen
and protect you
from the evil *one*.

1. Review the structure of the book. What are the main sections of the book? Consider reviewing past sermons on the church website and/or outlines of the book in an exegetical commentary to understand the main structure of 2 Thessalonians. If helpful, write out your own outline.

2. The passage begins with the word “finally.” What is this the final portion of?

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3. Who is this final section addressed to?

4. Who is the “us” in verse 1? Which three people are responsible for sending this letter to the Thessalonians?

5. What are the senders of this letter urging the Thessalonians to do in verse 1?

6. What are the two/three primary components of this prayer being urged? In other words, what are they asking prayer for?

7. Why might these leaders be asking for prayer regarding these items at this point in the letter? Why ask for these components to be prayed for at all?

❖ Day 2

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 again.

8. What would it mean for the word of the Lord to spread rapidly?

9. How can the word of the Lord be glorified? What does that mean?

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10. The writers of 2 Thess. state that the word of the Lord spread rapidly and was glorified in the believers who received this letter. How would bringing this to mind encourage the believers in Thessalonica to pray for these things in others?

11. Who are the writers of 2 Thess asking for prayers to be rescued from?

12. What do we know about these evil men from this letter or elsewhere?

13. Why would the clause “for not all have faith” be included in this sentence? What does this clause add to our understanding of these verses?

❖ Day 3

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 again.

14. What is the nature of the contrast in verse three? What is being contrasted?

15. What role does the faithfulness of God have in this specific conversation? In other words, why might Paul bring up this attribute of God here instead of any other?

16. What two actions is the Lord attributed with in verse three?

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17. Why would Paul talk about the protection and strengthening of the Thessalonians in a request for prayer regarding his own rescue?

18. Who is this protection from?

19. How might this reference to a specific enemy in verse 3 be related to the evil men in verse 2? Is there a relationship Paul might be drawing in referencing both evil men and this enemy in these verses?

20. How might this passage influence the way you pray?

21. Summarize this passage in a single sentence that is 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray that the word of the Lord would spread rapidly be glorified. Pray for your own opportunities to participate in the spreading of the gospel message through evangelism and discipleship. Pray God would give you a desire and boldness to help advance the gospel. Pray lastly for protection of spiritual leaders from evil men who oppose the gospel message as well as protection from the evil one.