

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

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.

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.

- ⁶ Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life
and not according to the tradition which you received from us.
- ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example,
because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,
⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it,
but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day
so that we would not be a burden to any of you;
⁹ not because we do not have the right *to this*,
but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you,
so that you would follow our example.
- ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order:
if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either
- ¹¹ For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life,
doing no work at all,
but acting like busybodies.
- ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ
to work in quiet fashion
and eat their own bread.
- ¹³ But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

❖ Day 1

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

1. What is the tone of Paul's message? What clues in the text support your idea?

2. Who is Paul writing to? Which word does he use to identify his audience? Why might he address them this way?

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3. Who does Paul direct the brethren to keep away from? Why?

4. What are the traditions that they were taught? (See 2 Thessalonians 2:15)

5. Why did Paul command them to follow his example? Whose example was he following? (1 Cor 11:1)

6. By what authority did Paul command the brethren? Why would he do that?

7. If Jesus Christ is called Lord in relation to the believers (v. 6 & 12), what does that insinuate about the brethren's identity and need to obey? How might this compel our own obedience?

❖ Day 2

Read Thessalonians 3:6-13 again.

8. How did the believers Paul was addressing know how to act?

9. What were the specific ways Paul led by example?

10. How many commands did Paul give? What are they? To whom did he give them?

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11. Why did they (Paul/others) work so hard? Did they have to?

12. Could Paul have lived off others giving to their ministry and not work? If yes, what gave them this right?

13. In verse 11 what does “acting like busy bodies” mean? How does this relate to “leading and undisciplined life?”

14. Is there a difference between exhort and command? Why might Paul use both of these words here?

❖ Day 3

Read Thessalonians 3:6-13 again.

15. How might this passage relate to church discipline? (Compare with 1 Cor. 5:1-13; Gal. 6:1-5)

16. Why would believers be disobedient to Paul’s teaching? What reasons do we give for not follow commands in scripture?

17. Why did Paul tell the hard-working brethren “not to grow weary?” What does he mean by this? (Compare with Galatians 6:9)

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18. What was Paul's hope that disfellowshipping those Christians would produce in them? How were they to be treated after being removed from fellowship?

19. What is the main goal of church discipline? Support your answer with scripture.

20. How does Paul's charge in verse 13 relate to other portions of the letter? (Compare 1:11-12 & 2:16-17)

21. What is the role of the church members in church discipline? Are there other passages you could use to point to support this view? If so, which ones?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for perseverance among your family and the members of Summit Woods in doing good. Pray our members would be convicted of areas of laziness and pursue righteousness. Pray also for wisdom in matters of church discipline and that when it is necessary members would be rightly restored upon repentance and faith in Christ.