

2 Thessalonians

Benediction (2 Thessalonians 3:16-18)

Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Read: Benediction (3:16-18)

Greeting (1:1-2)

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Final Judgment and Glory (1:3-12)

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Great Apostasy (2:1-12)

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or

troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **3** Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, **4** who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? **6** And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. **7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. **9** The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10** and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11** And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, **12** that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Stand Fast (2:13-17)

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, **14** to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **15** Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, **17** comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Pray for Us (3:1-5)

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.

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

Warning Against Idleness (3:6-15)

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. 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.

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.

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.

Benediction (3:16-18)

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.

Explain: Benediction (3:16-18)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some.

Are there any literary/structural observations?

Paul finishes the letter with a prayer and with encouragement for the Thessalonians.

Are there any repeated words?

Lord (3), with (3), you (3), all (2), every (2), peace (2)

Words not repeated: I (1), Paul (1)

What do the words mean?

16 Now may the Lord [*kyrios*] **of peace** [peace, prosperity, one, quietness, rest, set at **one** again; same word used in **1:2**] **Himself give** [second aorist active **optative**] **you peace** [peace, prosperity, one, quietness, rest, set at one again; same word used in **1:2** and earlier in **3:16**] **always in every way** [turn, mode, style, deportment, character, conversation, manner, means, way; same word used in **2:3**]. **The Lord** [*kyrios*] **be with you all**.

[This prayer comes after comforting them that they didn't miss the second coming. This prayer comes after multiple other prayers for them and their spiritual health. This prayer comes after reminding them that at the end of it all, Jesus will reign. This prayer comes after encouraging to stand fast and pray for Paul and friends. This prayer comes after a warning to not be busybodies, but to work hard for Jesus. This prayer is the best Paul can do after everything else he has said so far in this letter—and what does he pray for? He prays for Jesus' presence. Because Jesus' presence is the best that Paul could hope or pray for. And they (and we) have it. And we have it always in every way. Soak on that. On the best day, we have Jesus. On the worst day, we have Jesus. Never get over that.]

17 The salutation [greeting, salutation] **of Paul** [little] **with my own hand, which is** [present middle indicative] **a sign** [indication (ceremonially or supernaturally), miracle, sign, token, wonder] **in every epistle** [*epistole*; epistle, letter]; **so** [in this way, after that, after (in) this manner, as, even (so), for all that, like(-wise), no more, on this fashion(-wise), so (in like manner), thus, what)] **I write** [*grapho*; present active indicative; write, describe].

18 The grace [*charis*; graciousness, acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, gracious, joy, liberality, pleasure, thanks; same word used in **1:2, 17; 2:16**] **of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all** [Notice how Paul finishes like he started—with grace and peace]. **Amen**.

Apply (What is the point?)

1. Only the **Lord** of peace can give peace
2. Being reminded of Jesus' presence is a good thing
3. Praying for other believers is a good thing

Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. Pray for to Jesus to provide **peace**
2. **Remind** each other of Jesus' presence
3. Get busy **praying** for other believers

As an example of praying for other believers, I've asked our three returning missionaries (David Reed, Mike Callison, and Skip Miller) to share their testimonies of their recent time in Honduras.

Next time: Nahum

Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help
2. Read next week's text (multiple times/multiple ways) (**Nahum 1:1-11**)
3. Talk to someone about the text ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool) or in person)
4. Share ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool)) insights and questions by Thursday
5. Invite a member or non-member