

2 Thessalonians Chapter 3

1-5: The tying up of some loose ends:

6-11: The attitude toward the reversionistic believer

12-16: The epilogue

3:1. Finally [now that you have some doctrine], **my brethren, pray** [a command] **for us, that the Word** [doctrine] **of the Lord** [it belongs to the Lord as “the thinking of Christ”] **may have free course** [run freely namely that Paul would have the freedom to teach and that the content of his teaching not be distorted as he communicates or after he communicates] **and may be glorified** [the Word of God receives glorification when it is metabolized and used for the believer’s advance in the spiritual life], **even as it also is with you** [The Thessalonians were advancing quite well in the spiritual life.].

Τὸ λοιπὸν προσεύχεσθε, ἀδελφοί, περὶ ἡμῶν, ἵνα ὁ λόγος τοῦ κυρίου τρέχη καὶ δοξάζεται καθὼς καὶ πρὸς ὑμᾶς,

Paul is complimenting these Thessalonians when he commands them to pray for him and his team etc.

The clergy does not have a monopoly on prayer, though most Christians think so. This is why many Christians keep asking the clergy to pray for them. Paul reverses this thinking by asking them to pray for him and his team.

Sequence for Private Prayer:

1. Rebound: The use of the Recovery Procedure is the first and most important consideration. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. (Psalm 66:18) This procedure is taught in 1 John 1:9, “If we name [acknowledge] our sins, He is faithful and righteous to

forgive us [cancel] our sins for our benefit and to purify us from all wrongdoing.”

2. Thanksgiving: Thanksgiving is appreciation and gratitude for all that God has done in grace (freely given and undeserved). The more you love God and the more you appreciate Him, the greater is your “attitude of thanksgiving.” In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

3. Intercession: Intercessory prayer is praying for others. This aspect of prayer is a ministry of Christian service in which you provide a barrage of support for those in need. “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the [power of the] Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the good news.” (Ephesians 6:18–19)

4. Petition: Petition is praying for your own needs. This is listed last, though it is not necessarily the least important. We all have personal needs or problems of one kind or another. In such cases, “Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16a). Petitions address those particular circumstances for which there is no direct statement or solution from Scripture. (If provision for your own needs or solutions to your problems are found in the Word of God, do not petition for those things. For example, we are Filled with the Spirit automatically when we use the Recovery Procedure. Therefore, do not pray a meaningless prayer by saying, “Fill me with the Spirit.”

As you learn Bible doctrine and advance to maturity in the spiritual life, you will understand both the constraints and the fantastic opportunities of your prayer life. In spiritual maturity, you will reduce the number of your personal petitions while expanding your capacity for intercessory prayer.

Ten reasons why prayer is not answered:

1. Lack of faith: Matthew 21:22, “And all things, whatever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive [logical future].”

2. Lack of prayer: James 4:2c, “You quarrel and fight, and you do not have because you do not ask [failure to pray].”

3. Selfishness: James 4:3, “You ask but you do not receive because you ask for yourself that you may squander it on your lusts [in your frantic search for happiness].”

4. Carnality in general: Psalm 66:18, “If I regard iniquity in my heart [in the stream of consciousness], the Lord will not hear [my prayers]”

5. Lack of compassion: Proverbs 21:13, “He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor, will also cry [to the Father] himself and not be answered.”

6. Lack of domestic tranquility: 1 Peter 3:7, “You husbands in a similar manner, live with them according to knowledge [a husband has to understand women in general and specifically his own wife for every woman is different], as the weaker vessel [dependent upon her husband for fulfillment as a responder], since she is a woman; and show her honor as a joint-heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”

7. Pride or self-righteousness: Job 35:12, 13, “There they cry out [in prayer], but He does not answer because of the pride of the evil men. (13) Surely, God will not listen to an empty cry [prayer] nor will the almighty regard it.”

8. Lack of the Filling of the Spirit: Ephesians 6:18, “By means of every prayer and petition, be praying on every occasion of prayer in the [Filling of] Spirit, also with reference to this prayer, be on the alert with all persistent determination and petition on behalf of all saints.”

9. Lack of obedience: 1 John 3:22, “Furthermore, whatever we have asked, we receive from him because we keep his mandates and keep on doing the things that are pleasing in his sight.”

10. Lack of compliance with the divine will: 1 John 5:14, “In fact, this is the confidence which we have toward him [God] that if [3rd class conditional sentence] we ask anything according to his will, he [God the Father] hears us.”

A few statements regarding prayer:

1. We do not use prayer to hire God to do what we want done.
2. Too many believers use prayer to get their own way, not God’s way.
3. Prayer must be compatible with God’s will and God’s way, not our will and our way.
4. Prayer must recognize who and what God is, not who and what we are.
5. Prayer is not designed to get us out of trouble, but to express our helplessness, our humility, our total dependence on God rather than on human ability and power. Prayer is our recognition and orientation to His grace and His mercy toward us.
6. Prayer is not designed to manipulate God, but to perform and conform to the will of God.

7. Prayer is not what we want, but what God wants for us.
8. Prayer is our recognition and orientation to the grace of God.
9. Prayer is an expression and extension of Bible doctrine resident in the stream of consciousness of the soul. We fail in prayer because we fail to understand and utilize Bible doctrine.
10. Prayer was never designed to fulfill our lusts and desires, but prayer was designed to fulfill the will, plan, and purpose of God for our lives and to give us access to heaven while still living on earth.

Five Mistakes in Prayer:

1. The Christian assumes that God has emotion which He doesn't and so prays with an emotional appeal. Many Christians believe that God has emotion because they have never been taught anthropopathisms and anthropomorphisms. So, not understanding anthropopathisms, these believers actually think that God has regrets, angry outbursts, loathings, sympathetic compassions etc.
2. The Christian thinks that prayer is a problem-solving device when it isn't. This type of Christian usually prays for miracles. Paul's prayer in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 was not only asking for a miracle, but it was also contradicted the integrity of God which demanded that Paul receive undeserved suffering.
3. The Christian prays for things that are resolved in other ways for example the Christian who prays for protection or food when he is already being provided with these via God's Logistical Grace Pipeline.
4. The Christian whose prayers are in conflict with the integrity of God for example a Christian may pray to make America

great and powerful again when the righteousness of God maybe demanding severe punishment for the U.S.A. A Christian may pray for rain in a drought-stricken area when the Lord may have already instructed the Weather Angels to bring about that drought. Of course, if these prayers are in agreement with the will of God, then they will be answered.

5. Generally, don't ask for personal blessings since God wants to give you much more than you could ever pray for. Ephesians 3:20, "Now to him [to God the Father] who is able to do infinitely more [Escrow Blessings for time and for eternity] than all we could ask [in prayer] or think on the basis of the power [the Filling of the Spirit and metabolized doctrine] that keeps working in us for our benefit." Now obviously, if a Christian either doesn't understand or rejects this verse, he will pray for all of his personal needs.

Applications:

1. If you desire your prayers to be private, then don't pray them during a public prayer time.
2. If you pray a prayer in public that is contrary to the teaching from this pulpit, then I will have to challenge it because in effect you are challenging this ministry and furthermore you are possibly having some influence on this congregation.
3. If you claim that God is answering your prayers, then you should be more specific in your prayers. For example, if you desire to pray for rain then state the amount, the time and the location (10 inches within the next 3 weeks, covering a particular area). If the Lord should direct the weather angels as such, and so exactly 10 inches falls within the 3 weeks specified over that area, then I will assume that you are another Elijah.

4. If a Texan should pray for rain, and rain should cover Texas entirely within a week or so of that prayer, is the Lord answering this person's prayer or is the Lord providing rain for the ten million Christians within this area under the concept of Logistical Grace Provision?
5. When Paul was being transported to Rome to face trial under Nero, he didn't pray for good weather, but rather advised not to sail since it was the time when terrible storms usually occurred in the Med. If Paul had prayed for good weather during that time of the year when terrible storms normally occurred in the Mediterranean, it would have been asking for a miracle.
6. After leaving Egypt and having crossed the Red Sea, they traveled for three days into the Desert of Shur, but found no water. Then, they traveled further to Marah where they found only bitter water. At that point, the Jewish assembly grumbled against Moses. Though Moses knew that the Lord had to provide water for these Jewish people and their livestock. Furthermore, he understood that this was the water that God had provided under Logistical Grace Support, but he didn't know how to convert this bitter water into drinkable water. So, he prayed for the details as per Exodus 15:25, "Then he [Moses] shouted out to the Lord [for instructions], and the Lord showed him a tree, and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet."

3:2. And pray that we may be delivered from the unreasonable [a reference to harmful believers in apostasy] **and wicked men** [unbelievers in opposition to Christianity]; **for all do not have the faith** [Literally, the faith is not of all: Some are believers and some are unbelievers].

καὶ ἵνα ῥυσθῶμεν ἀπὸ τῶν ἀτόπων καὶ πονηρῶν ἀνθρώπων· οὐ γὰρ πάντων ἡ πίστις.

3:3. But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil.

πιστὸς δέ ἐστιν ὁ κύριος, ὃς στηρίξει ὑμᾶς καὶ φυλάξει ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

The Faithfulness of God:

1. God is faithful in His provision of the Recovery Procedure. 1 John 1:9, “If we name our sins, he is faithful and righteous with the result that he forgives us our sins for our benefit and purifies us from all wrongdoing.”

2. He is faithful to us under the conditions of testing. 1 Corinthians 10:13, “No testing has caught up with (over taken) you except such as is common to man, but God [the Father] is faithful who will not permit you to be tested beyond your capability [what you are able to handle at your level of spiritual growth], but with the testing, He will provide also the way of escape [a solution via one of the Problem-Solving Devices] so that you may be able to endure it [a reference to the staying power of the spiritual life and so to be able to remain under the pressure with happiness]”

3. God is faithful in His Call and provision for the person after he accepts the Call (invitation) of God. 1 Thessalonians 5:24, “Faithful is He [God the Father] who called you, who also will do it [provide the Portfolio of Invisible Assets].” After the Holy Spirit makes the gospel lucid to the unbeliever under the concept of Common Grace, the Father invites or calls the unbeliever through the gospel message as per 1 Corinthians 1:9, “The God [the Father] is faithful through whom you have been called [invited] into fellowship with his son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.” Since God the Father has perfect

righteousness, justice and omnipotence, He will do all that He has said that He would do. Perfect integrity (righteousness and justice) plus immutability equals faithfulness. The Portfolio of Invisible Assets namely the primary, secondary, personal, and unique assets are guaranteed by the perfection of God.

4. God is also faithful in establishing us and in protecting us. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 as per our passage.

5. God is faithful to the believer whether he is faithful or unfaithful. 2 Timothy 2:11-13, “Faithful is the Word. If we died with Him [and we have in retroactive positional truth], we will live with him [in the Eternal State]. (12) If we endure [advance and pass the three undeserved suffering tests], we will rule with him [in the Millennium]. If we reject [him by rejecting the spiritual life which He has given us], he will deny us [rewards at the Evaluation Platform of Christ. (13) If we are unfaithful [to the Lord], he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself [since we are a part of His body by being in union with Him].”

6. God is faithful in keeping His promises. Hebrews 10:23, “Let us keep holding fast the acknowledgment [the whole body of doctrine] of our expectation [of fulfilling our spiritual objectives] unbending [consistent with the principle of remaining positive to doctrine] because the one [the God] having promised [blessings] is faithful.”

“Who will establish you” ὃς στηρίζει ὑμᾶς

The future active indicative of the verb *sterizo* means to set in a certain position or direction. It also means to be mentally stabilized, to be firmly established, to be firmly supported by something. The progressive future tense means that the action of the verb will be fulfilled progressively in future time through their intake of Bible Doctrine.

“And guard you from the evil” καὶ φυλάξει ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

The verb is *fulasso* which means to guard or to preserve. The future tense in this clause, however, is not progressive, but gnomic, expressing an axiom. As you continue to learn and apply the Word of God, you come to the place of being preserved from evil. The more metabolized doctrine you have in your soul, the more you are guarded from evil in life. This is an axiomatic principle.

Evil is the Policy of Satan, the Great Deceiver:

He is the greatest deceiver in history. To be such a deceiver the devil must be the greatest and most effective liar in history, John 8:44, “You [scribes and Pharisees] are from your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand for the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; because he is a liar, and the father of lies.”

Truth in the soul protects a person from the lies of Satan who is totally devoid of truth. When there is no doctrine or establishment truth circulating in the stream of consciousness of either believers or unbelievers, they will automatically lie since they are like Satan, their mentor. The power of truth in the soul of an unbeliever or believer is the greatest factor in insulating him from the power of Satan.

Satan works through human beings who are liars, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10, “[The dictator of the Revived Roman Empire] **whose presence [in history] shall be according to the modus operandi of Satan with all power and by means of supernatural signs [extra natural phenomena in the spiritual realm like healing] even lying wonders [propaganda]. (10) and by means of all deception of unrighteousness [This dictator is a pathological liar who has a ministry of disinformation and will deceive both unbelievers and some believers] to those who are being destroyed [ruined: If you**

do not possess truth, you will be deceived, ruined and destroyed.] **because they did not receive the love for the truth** [These unbelievers reject God at God Consciousness or at Gospel hearing or both; believers reject truth as related to their spiritual lives], **in order that they might be delivered** [from delusion, from destruction, from catastrophe].”

Believers are deceived as easily as unbelievers by the satanic strategy.

Both socialism and Christian activism are a part of Satanic evil. Socialism is Satan’s lie to replace nationalism and free market function. The basis for socialism in modern history goes back to Sir Thomas Moore in his book Utopia where there was political and social perfection. Utopia, therefore, became a synonym for any visionary system of political or social perfection or perfect environment. The theory of utopian socialism is a lie, an economic tinkering with the Laws of Divine Establishment, whereby a false premise is inculcated—that if capitalism voluntarily surrendered its ownership of the means of production to the State or to workers, unemployment and poverty would be abolished. This is a lie which many people believe because they do not understand that capital and investment create jobs, not government. This theory of utopian socialism establishes slavery to the State rather than freedom of self-determination with the government protecting that freedom.

Christ should be our role model. Christian activism is designed by Satan to distract the Christian from fulfilling his responsibility. Christian activism combines the arrogance-skills with self-righteous arrogance plus crusader arrogance. Christians involved in activism think they are serving God when they are serving Satan. This is self-deception. Paul’s warning against the arrogance skills is found in Romans 12:2-3, “Stop being conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renovation of your thought, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and

perfect. For I say through the grace which has been given to me to everyone who is among you, stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think; but think in terms of sanity for the purpose of being rational without illusion, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from doctrine.” Our Lord did not become involved in activism as in delivering the Jews from the Romans and we take our precedence for the Church Age from the dispensation of the Hypostatic union.

Satan has numerous strategies against Christians and the Church such as discrediting the intake of God’s word and especially the mystery doctrines of the Church Age, discrediting believers through involving them in the cosmic system so that they should shock other believers etc.

3:4. And we have confidence in the Lord regarding you, that you are doing and will do [in the future] the things which we command you.

πεποίθαμεν δὲ ἐν κυρίῳ ἐφί ὑμᾶς, ὅτι ἃ παραγγέλλομεν [καὶ] ποιεῖτε καὶ ποιήσετε.

3:5. And may the Lord direct your hearts [your stream of consciousness] into the love for God [objective genitive; a love for God the Father provides motivation], and into the endurance of Christ [the staying power of the humanity of Christ during his life and his work on the cross].

Ὁ δὲ κύριος κατευθύναι ὑμῶν τὰς καρδίας εἰς τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ εἰς τὴν ὑπομονὴν τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Hebrew 12:2, “Be concentrating on Jesus, the pioneer [the one who established the precedence in the use of this new spiritual life] the perfecter [He perfected the use of the Proto-type spiritual life] of our

doctrine who because of his exhibited happiness [Sharing the happiness of God which provided the strongest possible motivation], he endured the cross [being judged for all the sins of mankind] disregarding the shame [He did not react to the sins for which he was being punished] and sat down [his humanity] at the right hand of the throne of God [the Father].”

Jesus was able to handle the greatest possible suffering on the cross; He had the staying power, the power to remain under the greatest possible pressure via the Proto-type spiritual life. Now, since we have this same spiritual life given to us, we have no excuse for not being able to handle the pressures of this life no matter how great.

3:6. Now, we command you, brothers, by the person of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw [separate] yourselves from every brother who walks disorderly, and not after the teaching which he received from us [these Christians have rejected Paul’s authority].

Παραγγέλλομεν δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, ἐν ὀνόματι τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, στέλλεσθαι ὑμᾶς ἀπὸ παντὸς ἀδελφοῦ ἀτάκτως περιπατοῦντος καὶ μὴ κατὰ τὴν παράδοσιν ἣν παρελάβοσαν παρὶ ἡμῶν.

These are Christians who are not interested in executing the spiritual life. If they should attend a church, they do so for false reasons. They may attend an assembly to con others out of their money etc., that they might live a life of indulgence without any hard work. In any case, the growing believer is not to associate with these believers in a social way.

Separation:

1. Separation is the technique of switching from personal love to impersonal love when dealing with friends or loved ones in the cosmic system. You love them from afar!
2. One must establish correct priorities in life and one of those priorities is to separate from distractions that might hinder one's momentum. Until one establishes priorities, he cannot make a correct decision about separation.
3. 2 Timothy 3:5, "They [believers in the cosmic system] hold to external forms of the spiritual life, but have renounced the power [the two power options] of that same spiritual life; you also be turning yourself away from these persons."
4. 2 Thessalonians 3:14, "If anyone does not obey our doctrinal teaching in this epistle, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame."
5. Romans 16:17-18, "Now I urge you, brethren, look out [have discernment through doctrine resident in the soul] for those who are causing dissensions and apostasies contrary to doctrine, which you have learned from a teacher; in fact, be separating from them. (18) For such believers do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own emotions serving themselves; and by their smooth and flattering speech, they deceive the stream of consciences of the unsuspecting [naïve believers with little doctrine]."
6. Separation from unbelievers inside the cosmic system is taught in 2 Corinthians 6:14-15, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers [in marriage]. For what do righteousness [believers with imputed righteousness] and lawlessness [those who will not obey the mandate to believe in Christ] have in common or what fellowship has light with darkness? (15) What harmony is there between Christ and Belial [a personal name for Satan as the

quintessence of evil] or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever [in marriage, in friendship, in social life]?”

7. The believer is to separate from the "fast crowd." 1 Peter 4:3-4, "For the time already past is enough [sufficient for you] to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles [associating with the fast crowd], having pursued a course of sensuality [unrestrained sexual activity], lusts [the motivation], excess of wine, carousing, drinking parties [related to Bacchus] and abominable [criminal] idolatries [human sacrifice]. (4) In which manner of life [the fast crowd of the previous verse], they are astonished [mental sins related to pride] that you do not run with them into the same excesses [the fast crowd repeats itself] of dissipation and they keep on maligning you [the vicious side of the fast crowd];”

The fast crowd always feeds on attractive and beautiful girls. The girls are attracted to these men with celebrity status or wealth. After the fun and excitement wears off and illusion becomes disillusion, these girls either become luses or tramps. Once the girls have become luses or tramps, the fast crowd will drop them and pick up new recruits.

8. The believer is to separate from violence and criminal activity, Proverbs 1:10-19, "My son [Solomon was a teenager], if sinners [technical for the wrong crowd] entice you, do not consent. (11) If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; Let us ambush the innocent without cause; [murder] (12) Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, even whole, as those who go down to the pit; [enjoy killing people] (13) We will find all *kinds* of precious wealth; We will fill our houses with spoil; [enjoy robbery] (14) Throw in your lot with us; We shall all have one purse," [we will split the spoils of our robbery; in government this is called socialism] (15) My son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, [stay away from these hoodlums] (16) For their feet run to evil and they hasten to shed blood. (17) Indeed, it is useless to spread the *baited*

net in the sight of any bird; [Just as these birds cannot be fooled, so certain believers cannot be fooled because they have doctrine; In the next verse, we find that violent individuals are so stupid that they set the baited net for themselves; as it were, and then walk right into the baited net.] (18) But they lie in wait for their own blood; They ambush their own lives. [violent people will be punished with violence] (19) So, are the ways of everyone who gains by violence; It takes away the life of its possessors.”

3:7. For you yourselves know that it is necessary for you to imitate us: [follow our example] **We did not behave disorderly among you,**

αὐτοὶ γὰρ οἶδατε πῶς δεῖ μιμεῖσθαι ἡμᾶς, ὅτι οὐκ ἠτακτήσαμεν ἐν ὑμῖν

Paul and his team functioned under authority and lived orderly and responsible lives. One cannot execute authority correctly until he has successfully been under authority.

3:8. neither did we eat any man's bread freely, but we worked with labor and worked hard night and day, so that we might not be a financial burden on any of you,

οὐδὲ δωρεὰν ἄρτον ἐφάγομεν παρά τινος, ἀλλί ἐν κόπῳ καὶ μόχθῳ νυκτὸς καὶ ἡμέρας ἐργαζόμενοι πρὸς τὸ μὴ ἐπιβαρῆσαί τινα ὑμῶν·

There is no place for moochers in the ministry. Furthermore, there is no place for moochers in Christianity.

3:9. (not because we do not have authority [In other words, Paul had the authority to come in and take an offering from them.], **but** [he didn't in order] **to make ourselves an example to you, to imitate us).**

οὐχ ὅτι οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν, ἀλλί ἵνα ἑαυτοὺς τύπον δῶμεν ὑμῖν εἰς τὸ μιμεῖσθαι ἡμᾶς.

Paul wanted to teach the Thessalonians that able bodied men should be working.

3:10. For even when we were with you, we commanded you this, that if anyone should not desire to work and there were some, neither should he eat [It is amazing how hunger will motivate one to work].

καὶ γὰρ ὅτε ἦμεν πρὸς ὑμᾶς, τοῦτο παρηγγέλλομεν ὑμῖν, ὅτι εἴ τις οὐ θέλει ἐργάζεσθαι μηδὲ ἐσθιέτω.

Since these believers were convinced that the Rapture was going to take place shortly, they decided to quit their jobs and become loafers. They had the attitude that there was no reason to work and why bother with the routines of life. They used the Rapture as an excuse to quit working.

3:11. For we hear that there are some who walk disorderly among you, not working at all, but being busybodies.

ἀκούομεν γὰρ τινὰς περιπατοῦντας ἐν ὑμῖν ἀτάκτως, μηδὲν ἐργαζομένους ἀλλὰ περιεργαζομένους·

When people should be working but are not working, they get into trouble. Because they have so much free time on their hands, they have a tendency to begin sticking their noses into everyone else's business to keep themselves from becoming bored.

3:12. Now, we command and exhort those who are such, by our Lord Jesus Christ, that they work with quietness [be under authority] **and eat their own bread** [They should make their own living.].

τοῖς δὲ τοιούτοις παραγγέλλομεν καὶ παρακαλοῦμεν ἐν κυρίῳ Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ ἵνα μετὰ ἡσυχίας ἐργαζόμενοι τὸν ἑαυτῶν ἄρτον ἐσθίωσιν.

This command and exhortation are directed to these who have quit their jobs, who are loafing, who are meddlers, and have become troublemakers.

3:13. But you, brothers, do not be weary in well doing.

Ἑμεῖς δέ, ἀδελφοί, μὴ ἐγκακήσητε καλοποιοῦντες.

This means that you should not be discouraged or despondent by the routine of life. Routine in life is good for it provides stability. When a person begins to loaf, he easily becomes despondent. The mental attitude of despondency leads to other mental attitude-sins. Understand that God regards what you do for a living as a noble function. So, stop becoming wearied in your noble function.

One of the occupational hazards on the way to maturity is weariness. Weariness equals routine plus pressure. If you are going to dedicate yourself to reaching spiritual maturity, then you will have to deal with a lot of routine, a lot of things that you will not want to do, but you must do. Many times, you will be discouraged with the idea of going on, life becomes wearisome. This seems to happen just before reaching spiritual maturity. You have to get through this pressure in order to make it, and this pressure can be any one of the reactor factors such as disillusion, boredom, discouragement, overcome with self-pity, loneliness, the problem of frustration, or special pressure of some kind. This is a test that comes maybe once, maybe twice or three times on the road to spiritual maturity.

3:14. And if anyone does not obey our word by this letter, mark that one and have no company [do not have a close relationship

with him] **with him** [break off your social life with that person even when they may still be attending Bible class], **that he may be ashamed.**

εἰ δέ τις οὐχ ὑπακούει τῷ λόγῳ ἡμῶν διὰ τῆς ἐπιστολῆς, τοῦτον σημειοῦσθε, μὴ συναναμίγνυσθαι αὐτῷ, ἵνα ἐντραπῇ·

Certain Christians must be avoided. These are the people who are on the road to reversionism and who are on a frantic search for happiness. These believers always break-away from the authority of their pastor-teacher. In doing so they get into emotional revolt. This is followed by a vacuum being establish which sucks-in false ideas and doctrines into the soul. Troublemakers must always be noted in your mind and avoided especially when you should become a bit wearied and tempted to be a bit bored. You cannot have a social life with born-again believers on the road to reversionism without getting on the same road.

The frantic search for happiness starts to produce shame when this person finds himself cut off from someone whom he admires, whom he loves, and who is not going along for the ride in the frantic search for happiness but instead is going in the direction of doctrine. In other words, you subordinate yourself to the Word of God and leave him in the Lord's hands, and this is the way the Lord deals with that individual. Guilt or shame is one of the knocking factors. When the Lord stands at the door and knocks, knocking is through shame. The passive voice: the reversionistic believer receives the shame. The subjunctive mood: the reality of this is a potential.

3:15. Yet, do not count him as an enemy [for he is not your enemy, but a fellow Christian spiraling out of control; if for some reason you should consider him as your enemy, you will get out of fellowship as well], **but instruct him as a brother** [if he should come to you for spiritual advice; you are not to rebuke or admonish, but only provide information].

καὶ μὴ ὡς ἐχθρὸν ἠγεῖσθε, ἀλλὰ νουθετεῖτε ὡς ἀδελφόν.

3:16. And may the Lord of prosperity Himself give [aorist tense, optative mood] **to you for your benefit** [dative of advantage], **prosperity** [tranquility leading to sharing the happiness of God] **through all** [doctrine] **in every way. The Lord be with you all.**

Αὐτὸς δὲ ὁ κύριος τῆς εἰρήνης δώη ὑμῖν τὴν εἰρήνην διὰ παντὸς ἐν παντὶ τρόπῳ. ὁ κύριος μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

The Greek word *didomi*, meaning to give is in the culminative aorist tense and the optative mood. The culminative aorist emphasizes the results of the action of the verb. As a result of taking in the Word and going through a test or two now and then, you come to the point of tranquility. The optative is also important, it expresses a personal desire for every believer. It is God's personal desire for you to have the capacity for blessing so that He can pour the greater blessings.

3:17. The greeting of Paul by my own hand which is the sign [Paul's signature, the evidence of his authority] **in every letter, so I write.**

Ὁ ἀσπασμὸς τῆ ἐμῆ χειρὶ Παύλου, ὃ ἐστὶν σημεῖον ἐν πάσῃ ἐπιστολῇ· οὕτως γράφω.

Since he mentions that he signed this epistle by his own hand, it would imply that Paul dictated this epistle itself through an amanuensis.

3:18. The grace which belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ be associated with you all [the grace which will take them to spiritual maturity]. **Amen** [I believe it].

ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

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Based on the scholarly work of R.B. Thieme Jr.

I recommend downloading 'THIEME'S BIBLE DOCTRINE DICTIONARY' from this website: rbthieme.org