

GOD'S OWN FAITHFULNESS

God's Word:

II Thessalonians 3:1-15

Key Verse:

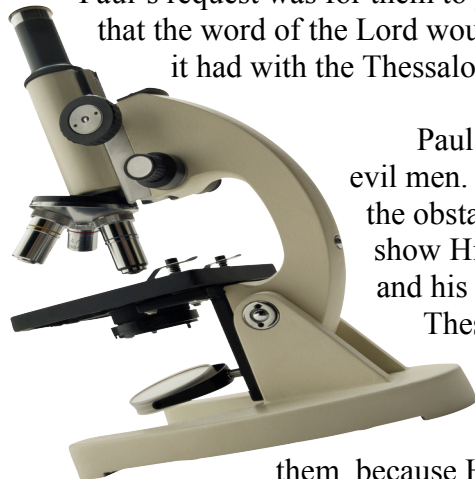
"BUT THE LORD IS FAITHFUL, AND HE WILL STRENGTHEN AND
PROTECT YOU FROM THE EVIL ONE."
II THESSALONIANS 3:3



Breaking It Down:

Starting in chapter 3, Paul begins the conclusion to his letter to the Thessalonians. He starts by making a petition, asking the Thessalonians to pray for him and his companions, Silas and Timothy. Notice, he doesn't ask them to pray for his health or his economic well-being.

Paul's request was for them to pray that wherever he and his companions went to preach, that the word of the Lord would be accepted and find a place in the people's hearts just as it had with the Thessalonians.



Paul also felt the need for them to pray for God's rescue from evil men. It's interesting to note that Paul doesn't ask for God to keep the obstacles or the opposition away. He instead desires for God to show His amazing power in the times of trouble, and to rescue him and his companions like the hero that God is. Paul has shown the Thessalonians that his trust is in the Lord.

Paul continues in the letter to encourage them, reminding the Thessalonians about God's faithfulness to them, because He will strengthen and protect them from the evil one. Paul was a man of faith; for he goes on to say boldly, "We have confidence in the Lord concerning you." (Verse 4a) Paul is letting them know how confident he is in God's provision concerning the Thessalonians. He knows the Lord will strengthen them and protect them, so that they may

keep on leading a life following everything he has taught them about Christ, as they were doing then.

Paul desires for the Lord to guide their hearts into the love of God and the faithfulness of Jesus. He commands them in the name of the Lord Jesus to stay away from any brother who lives a disorderly life, one that contradicts the teachings and example they had received from Paul and his companions. In verse 11 he writes: "For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies." Many believe that there were brothers who did not work but spent their time being unproductive and meddling in other people's business. To these busybodies, Paul exhorts to start working and to do so quietly, and then they can eat their own bread.

To the rest of the brethren that do work, Paul writes that they should not tire of doing good. However, if anyone does not obey the instructions in this letter, Paul urges the brethren not to associate with them as brothers so that they may feel shame. Still, he cautions, do not treat such a man as an enemy but as a brother whom you must correct with love.



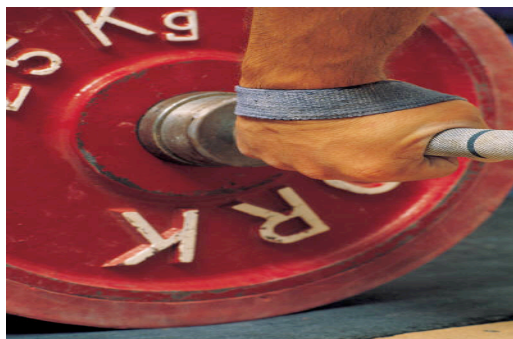
Living It:

Paul was a no nonsense kind of guy. I personally like his style. Today, too many of us Christians baby each other, not taking into account that when people are always treated like babies they never grow up. Paul had no problem holding each person accountable for his or her actions and he commanded believers to help their brothers along in the process of growing.

As a young believer, I want you to think about your life. Are you leading a productive life, spiritually and in your family? Do you spend most of your time in matters that are not helpful to you or those around you? Maybe you have not taken the time to think about these things. Today is a great opportunity for you to know that God is very interested in how you spend your time. The Lord wants you to succeed in what you choose to do (legally, of course). Jesus doesn't want you to waste your years, not realizing your potential for success.

Paul's words still echo in our generation. As a youth leader, I can say that I have confidence in the Lord concerning all of my students. Still, many times I get the feeling that many of them do not have confidence in God's faithfulness.

It is time for you to let the Lord direct your heart to the love of God and into the faithfulness of Christ. Be careful not to drift away, being led by the world of lawlessness into a path that seems correct, but will end in destruction. For you know how you must live and still many times you choose the wrong path. This is why you need the Lord, for He will strengthen you in your time of weakness and protect you from the evil one. The Lord is faithful and His word is true. I can testify to that, as can many



believers alongside of Paul. “Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.” (I Thessalonians 4:1)



Understanding It:

1. What kind of opposition do you think Paul experienced when he preached the word?
2. Do you agree with Paul in keeping away from brothers who we know are not living a correct life?
3. What is the reason Paul said in verse 2 that some men are perverse?
4. When was the last time you told God you had confidence in Him and His word?



Doing It!

Paul believed in the power of prayer. He believed prayer was necessary for God’s word to be spread among the unbelievers. He for the word not to be hindered by men. Today, we will take the last pray for each other. Pray for the Him to remove anything that is in obstacle and not letting His word



also believed prayer was a necessary element the opposition or, as he called them, evil 10 minutes of class and we will Lord’s guidance in our lives and for us or around us that is being an make a home in our hearts.