

<p>A</p>	<p><u>The Major Concern of 2Th 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul reminds everyone the importance of working for a living to avoid taking advantage of those who have good intentions to offer support to the needy. This passage has sometimes been used as an excuse to ignore the needy, but why? Shouldn't Christians offer help without judging whether one is actually deserving of help? 	<p>CCSS</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>The Word of the Lord</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "... so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified" – "the word of the Lord", literally means what God said, refers to the gospel message. The word of the Lord is described as an athlete winning a race, "speed forward" and "succeed in the thing for which I sent it", finally glorified as Jesus being glorified in His resurrection at the end. The word of God = Christ = Eucharist, for which we must treasure and receive. Paul and his companions need the prayers of the Thessalonians as evangelists often face opposition and hindrance from "perverse and wicked people". 	<p>3:1-2 CCSS</p> <p>1Th 1:5-8, Ps 147:15, Is 55:11</p> <p>SN1</p> <p>2Th 2:2 Acts 16:16-24</p>
<p>C</p>	<p><u>Encouragement to be Faithful to the Gospel Teachings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul encourages the Thessalonians to continue in their obedience to "what we instruct you" under the guardian of the Lord, and pray that the Lord will "direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ". They are asked to love or let their hearts be filled with God's love. They must "become imitators of the Lord by enduring tribulations with the joy of the Holy Spirit". 	<p>3:3-5, CCSS</p> <p>1Th 1:6</p>
<p>D</p>	<p><u>Admonishing Those Who Refuse to Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul and his companions "in toil and drudgery, night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you. Not that we do not have the right. Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you may imitate us". Those who refuse to labour are idling and a burden to others; a selfish behaviour. "If anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat" – This 	<p>3:7-9 CCSS 1Cor 9:15, Mt 10:10</p> <p>1Th 4:11-12</p> <p>3:10 CCSS</p>

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	<p>comment does not target those who are unemployed for various reasons, nor does it ask us to judge whether the leaders are worthy of their authority, nor anyone else based on our own perspective. Scriptural traditions teach us to be generous in giving and helping the needy. Our charity is not a reward to those who are “doing good” but to help those who are stumbling or even fallen into sins. We are only imitating God’s mercy and more importantly, inviting those who receive our help to experience God’s mercy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This explains why Paul reminds the Thessalonians to “not be remiss in doing good”. • One who does wrongs should not be regarded as enemy; we must “admonish him as a brother”. 	<p>Mt 5:42, James 1:27, Is 58:6-7</p> <p>3:13 CCSS</p> <p>3:14-15 CCSS, Mt 18:17, 1Cor 5:11-13</p>
E	<p><u>Final Greeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This section reflects the turmoil currently experienced by the Thessalonian church – persecution (1:4), theological confusion and fear (2:2), the obstinate refusal of some to follow Paul’s teaching about work – Paul prays, “May the Lord of peace himself give you peace all times and in every way”. Using “Written in his own hand” as a mark to let readers know that this letter truly comes from his own hands. 	<p>3:16-18 CCSS</p>
F	<p>2022-23BSP - 1&2 Thessalonians top 10 passages that benefited us the most.</p>	<p>SN2</p>

Special Notes:

1. For me, the Gospel is the Body of Christ; for me, the holy Scriptures are his teaching. And when he says: whoever does not eat my flesh and drink my blood (Jn 6:53), even though these words can also be understood of the [Eucharistic] Mystery, Christ’s body and blood are really the word of Scripture, God’s teaching. When we approach the [Eucharistic] Mystery, if a crumb falls to the ground we are troubled. Yet when we are listening to the word of God, and God’s Word and Christ’s flesh and blood are being poured into our ears yet we pay no heed, what great peril should we not feel? (Jerome, In Psalmum 147, quoted in Verbum Domini 56)
2. 2022-23BSP - 1&2 Thessalonians top 10 passages that benefited us the most

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Teaching	1&2 Thes references	BSP Notes
1. The Thessalonian church “receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the holy Spirit”. Willing to suffer for the gospel. God was clearly working through them=>common priesthood(Col 1:24)	1 Thes 1:6	#1-D2
2. “in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now atwork in you who believe”=>apostolic teachings, both written and oral(2Thes 2:15), it’s the living word.	1 Thes 2:13	#3-B2
3. “so that no one be disturbed in these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this”, 2 Tim 3:12, suffering servant, common priesthood (Col 1:24)	1 Thes 3:3	#4-B2
4. In the Church, everyone...is called to holiness, according to the saying of the Apostle: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification"	1 Thes 4:3, LG39	#5-B4
5. “that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor” – Body is the temple of the Spirit, a vessel carrying the Spirit, must keep it holy.	1 Thes 4:4	#5-C1
6. Resurrection and the coming of the Lord - how? “coming of the Lord” <i>Parousia</i> ; the righteous “will be caught up together” <i>rapio(Latin) rapture(Eng)</i> ◦ Resurrection is a key teaching of both the Old and New Testaments.	1 Thes 4:13-18	#6-C,D
7. To prepare for the coming of the Lord, we must “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks”.	1 Thes 5:16-18	#7-D2
8. Judgement Day: “at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his mighty angels, in blazing fire, inflicting punishment on those who do not acknowledge God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”	2 Thes 1:7-8	#8-C4
9. Before the coming of the Lord, 2 things will happen: “the apostasy comes first and the lawless one is revealed”. For now “the one who restrains” is stopping the lawless one from doing evil.	2 Thes 2:3,6	#9-C,D
10. “If anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat”- Our charity is not a reward to those who are “doing good” but to help those who are stumbling or even fallen into sins.	2 Thes 3:10	#10-D2

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