

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 06 March.....	1Thessalonians 1:1-10.....	Commended
2) 13 March.....	1Thessalonians 2:1-12.....	Shared
3) 20 March.....	1Thessalonians 2:13-20.....	Response Required
4) 27 March.....	1Thessalonians 3:1-13.....	Encouraged
5) 03 April.....	1Thessalonians 4:1-12.....	Demonstrated
6) 10 April.....	1Thessalonians 4:13-18.....	Promised
7) 17 April.....	Matthew 28.....	Risen
8) 24 April.....	1Thessalonians 5:1-11.....	Returning
9) 01 May.....	1Thessalonians 5:12-28.....	Living
10) 08 May.....	2Thessalonians 1:1-12.....	Enduring
11) 15 May.....	2Thessalonians 2:1-12.....	Observing
12) 22 May.....	2Thessalonians 2:13-17.....	Praying
13) 29 May.....	2Thessalonians 3:1-18.....	Waiting

INTRODUCTION

- Paul closes out 2 Thessalonians with several final admonitions, and each admonition is key to making substantial individual and church improvements

Passage	Comments
2Thes 3:1-2	<p><b>Admonition #1 – Pray for Us</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most Christians underestimate the purpose and power of prayer</li> <li>• We are commanded to devote ourselves to prayer, which means we need to plan how, when, where and what to pray for.....Rom 12:12</li> <li>• Even the Apostle Paul realized he needed the effectual fervent prayers from other righteous saints to sustain and protect him and to promote the Gospel message – God wants to use our prayers to accomplish His will!</li> </ul>
3:3-5	<p><b>God's Responsibilities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God will remain faithful to His children though He allows us to undergo persecution and to lose battles</li> <li>2. God will strengthen us to do His mission</li> <li>3. God will protect us from the evil one (we may be crushed, but we are secure in our eternal destiny)</li> <li>4. God will accomplish His mission with us .....Php 1:6</li> <li>5. God will direct and guide us where we need to go</li> </ol>
3:6-9	<p><b>Admonition #2 – Follow Our Example</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep away from miscreants (Unruly, undisciplined troublemakers – though they might be Christians)</li> <li>• Be disciplined in your walk and thoughts (control your thoughts and consider your words and deeds)</li> <li>• Be above reproach, hardworking, non-burdensome (Paul even told the Ephesian elders to work hard enough to support weaker members – Acts 20:35)</li> </ul>
3:10-11	<p><b>Admonition #3 – Don't Help Miscreants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians should minimize or not help those exhibiting prodigal or miscreant behavior (...don't cast your pearls before swine – Mat 7:6)</li> </ul>
3:12-13	<p><b>Admonition #4 – Adjust Your Behavior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul tells Christians to “work in quiet fashion.” In other words – be Low Maintenance Christians</li> <li>• “Do not grow weary in well doing” – IOW, do the work that is required of servants or slaves..... Luke 17:7-10             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ God's burden is not heavy..... Mat 11:30</li> <li>♦ God promises to strengthen us .....Php 4:13</li> <li>♦ God provisionally meets our needs ..... Mat 6:33</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3:14-15	<p><b>Admonition #5 – Implement Church Discipline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shame is good if it prevents someone from sinning</li> <li>• Loss of church fellowship should be a wakeup call to those acting foolishly</li> <li>• ...and all church discipline should have as its main goal restoration of fellowship &amp; not punishment</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BIG ASSUMPTION.</b> This passage assumes the malcontents are in the wrong. BUT it could be they are the ones in the right, and they are trying to challenge others (i.e., church leaders) to fix things. Church elders need to discern appropriately such tough situations.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Recall the great cry of the people during Nehemiah's time who were oppressed by their leaders ..... Neh 5</li> <li>♦ And Shepherds are admonished not to dominate or oppress their flock..... Ezek 34:1-11; 3John 1:9-10</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3:16-17	<p><b>Paul's Signature</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We don't know what the “distinguishing mark” might have been with the original autograph, but it could have been large print or other unusual penmanship</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

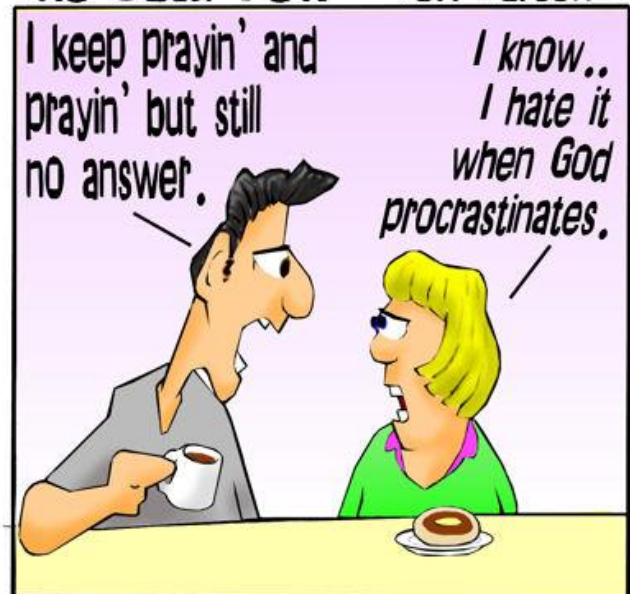
- If we can be low maintenance, high performance Christians we will eventually hear those grandiose words from our Lord, “Well done Good and Faithful Servant!”

KEY SUPPORTING PASSAGES

- Mat 6:33. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- Mat 7:6. Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.
- Mat 11:30. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
- Acts 20:35. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
- Rom 12:12. "...rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;"
- Php 1:6. Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
- Php 4:13. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- Rom 12:12. "...rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;"

NEXT WEEK: 1Kings 1. King David's final years are highlighted

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



GOD DOES NOT PROCRASTINATE.. neither is he a Genie in a Bottle, or Santa Claus.