

**Oct 21-27**  
**1 and 2 Thessalonians**  
**“Be Not Soon Shaken in Mind, or Be Troubled”**

**OVERVIEW:**

If we do not record the impressions we receive from the Spirit, we might forget them. What does the Spirit prompt you to record as you read 1 and 2 Thessalonians?

Record your impressions:

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**SCRIPTURES:**

**1 Thessalonians 1**

**Audience:** Many believe it to be his earliest Epistle.

**Historical Background:** The Thessalonian church had its beginnings during Paul’s second missionary journey. Soon after leaving Philippi, Paul arrived in Thessalonica, a major port city and trade center on the northwest corner of the Aegean Sea. On three successive Sabbaths he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ in Jewish synagogues with a good measure of success. However, some unbelieving Jews, moved with envy, gathered a hostile crowd that sought to assault Paul and his companions and any others who sympathized with them. Paul, concerned for the safety of the new converts, agreed to leave. He continued his missionary journey and at some point sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to strengthen the young church. Later Timothy joined Paul at Corinth to report on the condition of the Thessalonian church. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth around A.D. 50-51 to counsel the Thessalonian Saints regarding the concerns reported by Timothy.

**Theme:** Paul wrote this letter to encourage the Thessalonians to live worthy lives in preparation for the coming of the Lord, and to relieve their concerns about relatives who had died without a knowledge of the gospel.

*The gospel comes both in word and in power.* (These are most likely Paul’s first epistles. Those scriptures marked in red in these next two chapters are attributes that missionaries should have, and we should have, as we teach the gospel to our neighbors.)

(Salutation)

1 PAUL, and <sup>a</sup>Silvanus, (Silas) and <sup>b</sup>Timotheus, (Timothy) (servants of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,) <sup>c</sup>unto the <sup>d</sup>church of the <sup>e</sup>Thessalonians *which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ.* Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Thanksgiving)

2 We give <sup>a</sup>thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you (all,) in our prayers (to God for you);

3 Remembering without ceasing your work of <sup>a</sup>faith, and <sup>b</sup>labour of love, and <sup>c</sup>patience of hope in our

Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

4 Knowing, brethren <sup>a</sup>beloved, your <sup>b</sup>election of God. (beloved of God, your election)

5 For our <sup>a</sup>gospel <sup>b</sup>came not unto you in <sup>c</sup>word only, but also in <sup>d</sup>power, and in the <sup>e</sup>Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what <sup>f</sup>manner of men we were among you for your sake. (Anyone can have the word, but the power comes from God. This power is the priesthood and the Holy Ghost.)

6 And ye became <sup>a</sup>followers (imitators) of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much <sup>b</sup>affliction, with <sup>c</sup>joy of the Holy Ghost: (No one ever receives the gospel until he gains a revelation from the Holy Ghost; the gospel is a spiritual matter and comes only by the power of the Spirit. DNTC, 3:43)

7 So that ye were <sup>a</sup>ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every <sup>a</sup>place your faith to (ward) God—~~ward~~ is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from <sup>a</sup>idols to serve the <sup>b</sup>living and true God;

10 And to wait for his Son from <sup>a</sup>heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which <sup>b</sup>delivered us from the <sup>c</sup>wrath to come.

## 1 Thessalonians 2

*True ministers preach in a godly manner—Converts are the glory and joy of missionaries.*

### (Missionaries' visit)

1 FOR yourselves, brethren, know our <sup>a</sup>entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully <sup>a</sup>entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to <sup>b</sup>speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

3 For our exhortation *was* not of <sup>a</sup>deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in <sup>b</sup>guile:

4 But as we were <sup>a</sup>allowed (approved, found worthy, chosen) of God to be <sup>b</sup>put in <sup>c</sup>trust with the gospel, even so we <sup>d</sup>speak; not as <sup>e</sup>pleasing men, but God, which <sup>f</sup>trieth our hearts.

5 For neither at any time used we <sup>a</sup>flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of <sup>b</sup>covetousness; God *is* witness:

6 Nor of men sought we <sup>a</sup>glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own <sup>a</sup>souls, because ye were dear unto us.

9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and <sup>a</sup>travail: (toil) for <sup>b</sup>labouring night and day, because we would not be <sup>c</sup>chargeable (burdensome) unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

10 Ye *are* <sup>a</sup>witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his <sup>a</sup>children,

12 That ye would <sup>a</sup>walk <sup>b</sup>worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. (You were foreordained to join the Church and to receive eternal life. DNTC, 3:45)

### (Reception of the Gospel)

13 For this cause also <sup>a</sup>thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

14 For ye, brethren, became <sup>a</sup>followers (imitators) of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have <sup>b</sup>suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:

15 Who both <sup>a</sup>killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

16 <sup>a</sup>Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins <sup>b</sup>alway: for the wrath is come <sup>(ing)</sup> upon them to the uttermost. (Why should the Jews seek to prevent the spread of the gospel, not alone among themselves and their kindred, but among the Gentiles, also? Is not this very manifestation of hatred and venom an evidence of the divinity of the work? How could so much hatred and bitterness against the truth be kept alive unless Satan was stirring them up, using persecution as a tool to fight the truth? DNTC, 3:46)

#### (Concern for welfare of the Saints)

17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your <sup>a</sup>face with great desire.

18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his <sup>a</sup>coming?

20 For ye are our glory and joy.

### 1 Thessalonians 3

*Saints exhorted to perfect that which is lacking in their faith.*

1 WHEREFORE when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at <sup>a</sup>Athens alone;

2 And sent <sup>a</sup>Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to <sup>b</sup>establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

3 That no man should be <sup>a</sup>moved (**disturbed, perturbed**) by these <sup>b</sup>afflictions: for yourselves know that we are <sup>c</sup>appointed thereunto.

4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the <sup>a</sup>tempter have <sup>b</sup>tempted (**put to trial, test**) you, and our labour be in vain.

6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see* you:

7 Therefore, brethren, we were <sup>a</sup>comforted over you in all our <sup>b</sup>affliction and distress by your faith:

8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

#### (Thanksgiving and blessing)

9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the <sup>a</sup>joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your <sup>a</sup>face, and might <sup>b</sup>perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

12 And the Lord make you to increase and <sup>a</sup>abound in <sup>b</sup>love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:

13 **To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the <sup>a</sup>coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his <sup>b</sup>saints.** (President Brigham Young said: "Do not be too anxious for the Lord to hasten this work. Let our anxiety be centered upon this one thing, the sanctification of our own hearts, the purifying of our own affections, the preparing of ourselves for the approach of the events that are hastening upon us. This should be our concern, this should be our study,

this should be our daily prayer... Seek to have the Spirit of Christ, that we may wait patiently the time of the Lord and prepare ourselves for the times that are coming. This is our duty.” JD, 9:3)

## 1 Thessalonians 4

*Saints exhorted to be holy, sanctify themselves, and love one another—The Lord shall come and the dead shall rise.*

### (Sexual purity)

1 FURTHERMORE then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have <sup>a</sup>received of us how ye ought to <sup>b</sup>walk and to <sup>c</sup>please God, *so* ye would <sup>d</sup>abound more and more.

2 For ye know what commandments <sup>a</sup>we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, *even your* <sup>a</sup>sanctification, (To be sanctified is to become clean, pure, and spotless; to be free from the blood and sins of the world; to become a new creature of the Holy Ghost, one whose body has been renewed by the rebirth of the Spirit. Sanctification is a state of saintliness, a state attained only by conformity to the laws and ordinances of the gospel. The plan of salvation is the system and means provided whereby men may sanctify their souls and thereby become worthy of a celestial inheritance. DNTC, 3:49) that ye should <sup>b</sup>abstain from <sup>c</sup>fornication: (immorality)

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his <sup>a</sup>vessel (body) in <sup>b</sup>sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the <sup>a</sup>lust (passion of lust) of concupiscence (to desire ardently), even as the <sup>b</sup>Gentiles which <sup>c</sup>know not God:

6 That no *man* <sup>a</sup>go beyond (take advantage of, wrong) and defraud his brother in <sup>b</sup>any matter (the matter): because that the Lord *is* the <sup>c</sup>avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto <sup>a</sup>uncleanness, but unto holiness. (Remember, brethren, that he has called you unto holiness and, need we say, to be like him in purity. How wise, how holy, how chaste, and how perfect, then, you ought to conduct yourselves in his sight. Joseph Smith’s Commentary on the Bible, p. 183)

8 He therefore that <sup>a</sup>despiseth, (rejects, sets aside, violates) <sup>b</sup>despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his <sup>c</sup>holy Spirit.

### (Brotherly love)

9 But as touching <sup>a</sup>brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are <sup>b</sup>taught of God to <sup>c</sup>love one another.

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

11 And that ye <sup>a</sup>study (strive, endeavor earnestly) to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to <sup>b</sup>work with your own <sup>c</sup>hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk <sup>a</sup>honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

### (Christ’s Second Coming)

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye <sup>a</sup>sorrow not, even as others which have no <sup>b</sup>hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which <sup>a</sup>sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. (The living are caught up to meet their returning Lord, and with him they shall return to live on this earth, which will then be changed and receive its paradisiacal glory. When the living arrive at the age of a tree, 100 years, they shall be changed from mortality to immortality in the twinkling of an eye and shall then reign as kings and priests in exalted glory. (D&C 101:23-31) Also at our Lord’s return, the righteous dead shall come forth from their graves with celestial bodies to meet their God. They, then, as kings and priests shall live and reign with Christ on earth in resurrected glory for a

thousand years. Thus the saints, whether they sleep in the Lord or live in the flesh until he comes, shall inherit glory and honor and salvation at his Coming. The formal, shall we even say ritualistic judgment, when all stand before his bar, shall not take place until after the millennium, after all have come forth from their graves. DNTC, 3:52)

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, <sup>a</sup>that ~~we which~~ (they who are) are alive *and* ~~remain unto~~ (at) the coming of the Lord shall not <sup>c</sup>prevent (precede, make progress over) them ~~which~~ (who remain unto the coming of the Lord, who) are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall <sup>a</sup>descend from heaven with <sup>b</sup>a shout (a cry of command, a cheer), with the voice of the <sup>c</sup>archangel, and with the <sup>d</sup>trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall <sup>e</sup>rise first: (The righteous dead shall come forth in the resurrection of the just; wicked men shall rise second, in the resurrection of the unjust. The catching up of the living saints shall take place at the same time the righteous dead are resurrected. DNTC, 3:52)

17 <sup>a</sup>Then ~~we which~~ (they who) are alive *and* ~~remain~~ shall be <sup>b</sup>caught up together ~~with them~~ in(to) the clouds, (with them who remain) to meet the <sup>c</sup>Lord in the <sup>d</sup>air: and so shall we <sup>e</sup>ever be (ever) with the <sup>f</sup>Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

## 1 Thessalonians 5

*Saints shall know the season of the Second Coming of Christ—Live as becometh saints—Rejoice evermore—Despise not prophesyings.*

1 BUT of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the <sup>a</sup>day of the Lord so cometh as a <sup>b</sup>thief in the night. (To those who are not watching. To the members of the Church, He will not come as a thief in the night.)

3 For when they shall say, Peace and <sup>a</sup>safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not <sup>b</sup>escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in <sup>a</sup>darkness, that that <sup>b</sup>day should overtake you as a thief. (He shall come as a thief in the night, unexpectedly and without warning, to the world, to those who are in spiritual darkness, to those who are not enlightened by the power of the Spirit. But his coming shall not overtake the saints as a thief, for they know and understand the signs of the times. DNTC, 3:54)

5 Ye are all the <sup>a</sup>children (sons) of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not <sup>a</sup>sleep, as *do* others; but let us <sup>b</sup>watch and be <sup>c</sup>sober. (sober, vigilant, circumspect)

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

### (Various Christian duties)

8 But let us, who are of the day, be <sup>a</sup>sober, putting on the <sup>b</sup>breastplate of <sup>c</sup>faith and love; and for an helmet, the <sup>d</sup>hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to <sup>a</sup>wrath, but to obtain <sup>b</sup>salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should <sup>a</sup>live together with him.

11 Wherefore <sup>a</sup>comfort (exhort, console, encourage) yourselves together, and <sup>b</sup>edify one another, even as also ye do.

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which <sup>a</sup>labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to <sup>a</sup>esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at <sup>b</sup>peace among yourselves. (Members of the Church are to highly esteem the ecclesiastical leaders who preside over them.

Criticism, faultfinding, backbiting, and gossip should be done away with, and an attitude of helpfulness, honest praise, kindness, and forbearance should prevail. This same respect and honor is to be given to

all who labor to build up the kingdom. How is such honor for those who bear the priesthood to be obtained? For the men in the Church the following advice is of great value: "If you will honor the Holy Priesthood in yourself first, you will honor it in those who preside over you and in those who administer in the various callings throughout the Church." Joseph F. Smith, *A Journey to the South*, p. 106)

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, <sup>a</sup>warn them that are <sup>b</sup>unruly, <sup>c</sup>comfort (encourage, console) the <sup>d</sup>feble-minded, (faint-hearted, despondent) <sup>e</sup>support (care for) the <sup>f</sup>weak, (infirm, doubting, timid) be patient toward all *men*.

15 See that none <sup>a</sup>render <sup>b</sup>evil for evil unto any <sup>c</sup>man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

16 <sup>a</sup>Rejoice evermore.

17 <sup>a</sup>Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give <sup>a</sup>thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 <sup>a</sup>Quench (extinguish, hinder, suppress) not the <sup>b</sup>Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 <sup>a</sup>Prove all things (examine, put to the test); hold fast that which is good.

22 <sup>a</sup>Abstain from all <sup>b</sup>appearance (kinds) of <sup>c</sup>evil.

(Blessing)

23 And the very God of peace <sup>a</sup>sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

(Salutation)

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with an holy <sup>a</sup>kiss. (salutation)

27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

## 2 Thessalonians 1

**Audience:** Paul wrote this letter around A.D. 50-51.

**Historical Background:** The similarities between this letter and 1 Thessalonians are so strong that many believe they were written within six months of each other. Paul wrote it soon after hearing the reports of Silas and Timothy when they returned from delivering his first letter.

*At his Second Coming the Lord Jesus will take vengeance upon the ungodly.*

(Salutation)

1 PAUL, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, (the servants of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ), <sup>a</sup>unto the <sup>b</sup>church of the Thessalonians ~~in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:~~

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

(Thanksgiving)

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the <sup>a</sup>churches of God for your <sup>b</sup>patience (endurance) and faith in all your <sup>c</sup>persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

## (Judgment)

5 *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also <sup>a</sup>suffer:

6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled <sup>a</sup>rest with us, when the <sup>b</sup>Lord Jesus shall be <sup>c</sup>revealed from heaven with his mighty <sup>d</sup>angels, (Second Coming)

8 In flaming <sup>a</sup>fire taking <sup>b</sup>vengeance on them that know not God, and that <sup>c</sup>obey not the <sup>d</sup>gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be <sup>a</sup>punished with <sup>b</sup>everlasting-<sup>c</sup>destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his (everlasting) power;

10 When he shall come to be <sup>a</sup>glorified in his <sup>b</sup>saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you <sup>a</sup>worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil 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 ye in him, according to the <sup>a</sup>grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## 2 Thessalonians 2

*Apostasy is to precede the Second Coming—Gospel prepares men for eternal glory.*

### (Second Coming - Apostasy)

**Scripture Mastery:** 1 NOW we beseech you, brethren, <sup>a</sup>by (concerning) the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, <sup>a</sup>or be troubled (by letter, except ye receive it from us), neither by spirit, nor by word, ~~nor by <sup>b</sup>letter as from us, as that the <sup>c</sup>day of Christ is at hand.~~

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: <sup>a</sup>for ~~that day shall not come, except there (shall) come a <sup>b</sup>falling away first, (apostasy of the early Christian church) and that <sup>c</sup>man of <sup>d</sup>sin (Satan) be revealed,~~

(Paul's promise that the man of sin must be revealed before our Lord could return from the millennial era has been abundantly fulfilled. At a conference of the Church held June 3, 1831, the man of sin was revealed in that some of the brethren were overcome by devils whom the Prophet rebuked and cast out HC, 1:175, DNTC, 3:63) the son of perdition; (Satan) (The Greek word Paul uses is *apostasias*, the word from which we derive the words apostasy, apostatize, and apostate. The literal meaning of the word is to revolt, but in secular Greek usage it meant political revolt or the changing of governmental forms. The passage here is a reference to the apostasy that was to occur before the Lord returns to the earth to rule and reign in majesty and power. New Testament Study Guide, p. 276. Between the first and second personal ministries of the Lord Jesus on planet earth, the gospel was to be lost, darkness was to cover the earth, and Satan was to have control and dominion over the hearts and minds of men. DNTC, 3:63 **Is there enough time for you to serve missions and have families, or is the Second Coming happening soon?**)

Elder Boyd K. Packer: Everything that I have learned from the revelations and from life convince me that there is time and to spare for you to carefully prepare for a long life. One day you will cope with teenage children of your own. That will serve you right. Later, you will spoil your grandchildren, and they in turn will spoil theirs. If an earlier end should happen to come to one, that is more reason to do things right. CR, Apr 1989, 72. **What do you say to someone who said they went to a fireside where the speaker said he had a dream about the Second Coming and was told to teach the Saints certain things they must do to be ready?**

Elder Boyd K. Packer: We are entitled to personal revelation. However, unless, we are set apart to some presiding office, we will not receive revelations concerning what others should do. Occasionally someone will claim to have received authority to teach and bless without having been called and set apart. That is why the process of sustaining those called to

office is so carefully protected in the Church – that all might know who has authority to teach and to bless. An unusual spiritual experience should not be regarded as a personal call to direct others. It is my conviction that experiences of a special, sacred nature are individual and should be kept to oneself. CR, Oct 1989, 17. **What would you say if someone told you that the signs of the Second Coming were almost all fulfilled, great catastrophes were coming, and if Church members did not get their food storage now it would be too late?** Elder Neal A. Maxwell: Over the sweep of Christian history, some believers have, by focusing on a few prophecies while neglecting others, prematurely expected the Second Coming. Today, while we are obviously closer to that great moment, we are in the same danger. In the context of such cautions, I have no hesitancy in saying that there are some signs – but certainly not all – suggesting that summer is nigh. Members of the Church need not and should not be alarmists. They need not be deflected from quietly and righteously pursuing their daily lives. CR, Apr 1988, 6-8. Brigham Young: Are you prepared for the day of vengeance to come, when the Lord will consume the wicked by the brightness of his coming? No. then do not be too anxious for the Lord to hasten his work. Let our anxiety be centered upon this one thing, the sanctification of our own hearts, the purifying of our own affections, the preparing of ourselves for the approach of the events that are hastening upon us. This should be our concern, this should be our study, this should be our daily prayer.. Seek to have the Spirit of Christ, that we may wait patiently the time of the Lord, and prepare ourselves for the times that are coming. This is our duty. JD, 9:3)

#### (Sons of Perdition)

4 Who <sup>a</sup>opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.  
5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?  
6 And now ye know <sup>a</sup>what withholdeth (the one who possesses, holds in firm grasp, restrains.) that he might be <sup>b</sup>revealed (disclosed, discovered, manifested) in his time.  
7 <sup>a</sup>For the <sup>b</sup>mystery of <sup>c</sup>iniquity (lawlessness) doth already work(, and he it is who now worketh, and Christ suffereth him to work): ~~only <sup>d</sup>he who now letteth will let,~~ (he who now possesses, holds in firm grasp, restrains.) until (the time is fulfilled that) he (shall) be taken out of the way. (This has reference to Satan, who will be taken out of the way, or bound, after the Lord's return.)  
8 And then shall that <sup>a</sup>Wicked (lawless one) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his <sup>b</sup>coming:  
9 *Even him,* (Yea, the Lord, even Jesus) whose coming is (not until) after (there cometh a falling away, by) the working of Satan with all <sup>a</sup>power and <sup>b</sup>signs and lying wonders,  
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.  
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:  
12 That they all might be <sup>a</sup>damned (brought to account, trial) who <sup>b</sup>believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

#### (Thanksgiving)

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning <sup>a</sup>chosen you to salvation through <sup>b</sup>sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: (Members of the Church were foreordained to be saved in the celestial kingdom; they were chosen in the pre-existence to gain eternal life. DNTC, 3:64)  
14 Whereunto he called you by our <sup>a</sup>gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### (Blessing)

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.



16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath <sup>a</sup>loved us, and hath given us everlasting <sup>b</sup>consolation and good hope through <sup>c</sup>grace,  
17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

## 2 Thessalonians 3

*Pray for the triumph of the gospel cause—Paul preaches the gospel of work—Be not weary in well doing.*

### (Request for Prayer)

1 FINALLY, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord <sup>a</sup>may have *free* course, (may progress freely, rapidly) and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

2 And that we may be delivered from <sup>a</sup>unreasonable (unsuitable, absurd, improper) and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *you* from <sup>a</sup>evil. (the evil one, the devil)

4 And we have <sup>a</sup>confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

5 And the Lord <sup>a</sup>direct your hearts into the <sup>b</sup>love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

### (Instruction concerning idlers)

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye <sup>a</sup>withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh <sup>b</sup>disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

(Enemies from within, traitors to the Cause, cultists who pervert the doctrines and practices which lead to salvation, often draw others away with them, and added souls lose their anticipated inheritance in the heavenly kingdom. When cultists and enemies become fixed in their opposition to the Church, and when they seek to convert others to their diverse positions, the course of wisdom is to avoid them, as Paul here directs, and to leave them in the Lord's hands. DNTC, 3:66)

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to <sup>a</sup>follow us (imitate): for we <sup>b</sup>behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; (Harold B. Lee: Now the only safety we have as members of this church is to do exactly what the Lord said to the Church in that day when the Church was organized. We must learn to give heed to the words and commandments that the Lord shall give through his prophet... you may not like what comes from the authority of the Church. It may contradict your political views. It may contradict your social views. It may interfere with some of your social life. But if you listen to these things, as if from the mouth of the Lord himself... the gates of hell shall not prevail against you. CR, Oct 1970, 152)

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread <sup>a</sup>for nought (undeservedly, gratuitously); but wrought with <sup>b</sup>labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not <sup>a</sup>power, (authority) but to make ourselves an <sup>b</sup>ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not <sup>a</sup>work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you <sup>a</sup>disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own <sup>a</sup>bread.

13 But ye, brethren, **be not <sup>a</sup>weary in well doing.**

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count *him* not as an <sup>a</sup>enemy, but <sup>b</sup>admonish *him* as a <sup>c</sup>brother.

**(Blessing)**

16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord *be* with you all.

**(Salutation)**

17 The salutation of Paul with mine own <sup>a</sup>hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.