

“The Ministry of Helps and Those Who Are Unruly”

2 Thess. 3:6-15

Finding Peace in the Midst of the Storm

Our present study is the result of three weeks of preliminary research. No truth operates in a vacuum. This passage is in the context of **paracletos** or the ministry of helps. Because of our absence from the book of 2 Thessalonians, let us review the material that leads us to 3:6-15.

The letter Paul wrote was in response to information received concerning the coming of the Lord. In light of our Lord’s imminent return, some had become idle. In so doing, they became parasitical - "wards" of the church. It was not because of unforeseen circumstances, but it was based on a theological position.

I. The condition that exists in Thessalonica

Why is the apostle calling the church family to deal with certain individuals within their fellowship? Two reasons are given.

A. The people are unruly/undisciplined (vv.6, 11).

The unruly or undisciplined are those people who do not obey the instruction in this letter (v.14a); in so doing they became busybodies.

To bring them to their senses Paul cites his own example (vv. 8-10).

B. The people are busybodies (v.11b).

II. The churches action toward the unruly

A. They are to be alienated from the fellowship.

The following three statements are not sequential. They are not "steps." They are saying the same thing and they are congruent with each other.

1. The Church is to keep away from them (v.6).
2. The Church is not to support their sinful habit by providing for their needs (Let him not eat inside of the fellowship [v.10]).
3. The Church is to take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him (v.14).

Continued on the other side...

B. They are to be admonished by the fellowship (v.15).

The word admonish is the same found in 1 Thessalonians 5:14, "**Nouthetic.**"

What is the attitude of the church toward the individual in all of this?

III. The churches attitude toward the unruly

"Do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother" (v.15). The intent of confronting a brother is to assist him in seeing his folly. When he sees his folly, he will respond with a repentant shame.

The Epistle concludes with-

- A prayer for tranquility (v.16).
- A salutation of authenticity (v.17).
- A benediction of generosity (v.18).