

# INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD IN THE LETTERS FROM PAUL

## DEDUCTIVE LESSON EIGHT

2 Thessalonians 3

**Day One:** Verses 1–5

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1–5 and answer the following questions.

1. For what do Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy ask the Thessalonians to pray?

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2. What truth is found in verse 3?

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3. What blessing is found in verse 5?

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4. Verse 5 mentions the patience of Christ. Let's look at a few gospel passages which show the patience of Christ. For each passage, summarize what happened, in the space provided.

Matthew 9:18–26

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Mark 10:13–16

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Matthew 27:39–44, Luke 23:34–43

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**Scripture Memory:** The Scripture Memory verse for this week is 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

“Abstain from every form of evil.” 1 Thessalonians 5:22

**Day Two:** Verses 6–12

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6–12 again.

1. What instruction did Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy give to the Thessalonian church regarding “every brother who walks disorderly?”

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2. What example did Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy give to the church while they were with them in Thessalonica?

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3. What command did they give the church, in verse 10?

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4. Define busybody in your own words.

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5. Below are references to other passages that tell us what do regarding those who call themselves Christians, but who live lives that are contrary to Christ's teachings. What do these verses tell us?

Romans 16:17-18

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1 Corinthians 5:9-13

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Matthew 18:15-17

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6. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy "command and exhort" the busybodies to "work in quietness and eat their own bread." Work can be a rewarding and satisfying thing; God intended it to be so. But how was this altered by Adam's curse (see Genesis 3:17-19)?

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7. What does Proverbs 24:30-34 tell us about being lazy?

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**Scripture Memory:** Fill in the blanks from memory.

"Abstain from every form of \_\_\_\_\_." 1 Thessalonians \_\_:22

**Day Three:** Verse 13

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:13. What instruction do you find there?

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2. In our last lesson we read, "May the Lord Jesus Christ...establish you in every good word and work" (2 Thessalonians 2:16–17). Good works play a vital role in the life of a Christian, but it is not the role of salvation. What do the following verses say about this?

Titus 3:4–6

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2 Timothy 1:8–9

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Romans 11:5–6

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3. If good works do not save us, are we as Christians exempted from performing them? Certainly not! What do these verses say about good works?

Matthew 5:16

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Ephesians 2:10

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Hebrews 10:24

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**Scripture Memory:** Fill in the blanks from memory.

“Abstain from every \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.” 1 Thessalonians \_\_:\_\_

**Day Four:** Verses 13–18

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:13–18.

1. So, what do we do if we find ourselves growing weary in doing good? What do you learn from these verses?

Psalm 27:13

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Isaiah 40:29

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2 Corinthians 4:16

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Hebrews 12:3

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Galatians 6:9

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2. What instructions did Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy give to the Thessalonian church in 2 Thessalonians 3:14–15?

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3. What benediction do they give in verses 16 and 18?

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**Scripture Memory:** Fill in the missing words from memory.

"\_\_\_\_\_ from every \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_." \_\_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_\_

**Day Five:** Personal Application

1. In 2 Thessalonians 3:1, Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy asked for prayer from the Thessalonian church. Do you often ask for prayer from your fellow believers? Or do you keep your prayer needs to yourself? The church body was designed that each of the members would strengthen and uphold the others, bearing one another's burdens and presenting each other's requests before the Lord in prayer. Write down a prayer request which you are willing to allow your group members to pray for you.

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2. This week we looked at a few stories from the gospels that demonstrated the patience of Christ. Can you think of another—from the life of Jesus, from a parable He told, or from your own life?

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3. Does your Christian life abound with good works? Would you like to see more of the fruit of good works in your life? Brainstorm some ideas of how you can outwardly share the lovingkindness of God with other people—especially as the Christmas season approaches.

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4. In 2 Thessalonians 3:17, we read that Paul signed the epistle with his own hand. As you know, both Thessalonian epistles were written by three men: Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, yet we often credit Paul as the “true author.” We know from the Biblical accounts of Paul that he was definitely a man of action, a leader, a patriarch, and a motivator. Praise God for people like Paul! But we must not forget to praise God for brothers like Timothy and Silvanus—consistent and faithful to their calling, willing to be dispatched to areas of need, and diligently following the directives placed before them. Among your acquaintances, can you identify a man like Paul? How about someone like Silas or Timothy? Write their names or initials and spend a moment in prayer giving praise to God for his diverse family.

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**Scripture Memory:** Write this week’s Scripture Memory verse completely from memory.

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\_\_\_\_\_.” \_\_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_\_

**Day Six:** Session Review

Congratulations! You have reached the end of the first section of The Instructions of God in the Letters from Paul. Think back over the past eight lessons and write down the following:

What would you say is one of the main themes found in the Thessalonian epistles?

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Which Scripture Memory Passage was most instructive to you?

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What was one idea that seemed fresh and new to you when you studied it? Something you may have never thought of before?

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What is one prayer request (either your own, or a group member's) that was answered in a positive way?

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What is one prayer request that you will take with you over the Christmas break and continue to pray for?

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Who is one group member who made an impression on you, or whom you got to know the best?

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What is one topic that you are glad you studied?

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What is one thing said during one of the lectures that has stayed in your mind?

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**Scripture Memory:** Can you write out all eight Scripture Memory Passages from this session?

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