

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3; 9-17**

**1** Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters,

**2** not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

**3** Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

**9** The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,

**10** and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

**11** For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

**12** and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

**13** But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

**14** He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**15** So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

**16** May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,

**17** encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

## **Titus 3 (New International Version)**

### **Saved in Order to Do Good**

- 1** Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,
- 2** to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.
- 3** At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.
- 4** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,
- 5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
- 6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,
- 7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
- 8** This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.
- 9** But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.
- 10** Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.
- 11** You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

Grace and Peace to you my Sisters and Brothers in Christ. I don't know what you have come to do this morning but I have come to praise the Lord. I want to praise Him for the songs of Zion that were sang by our choir on yesterday. I want to praise Him for Joanie and Daphney who danced like David danced on yesterday. I want to praise Him for different people doing new things on yesterday. Are you beginning to hear a pattern here? Something good happened in this church on yesterday and if you stayed home you missed it. Now I know the Bulls were in double overtime when it was time for the program to begin; I realize that someone might have been attending Michael Jordan's wedding; and someone might have had to work. But where were the rest of you? We need to consider the words of Paul to the churches he felt responsible for:

**Hebrews 10:24** And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works,  
**10:25** not **abandoning our own meetings**, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near.  
**1 Thessalonians 4:18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.  
**5:11** Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, just as you are in fact doing.

This morning we continue to look at words that Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica and that the church fathers, lead by God preserved for us. One of the possible goals of this passage of scripture is to help a young church and young Christians to stand firm in the faith. But I pray that as you listen and study for yourself you are able to hear a message for all Christians. We all collectively and individually need to stand firm in the faith.

But the phrase "standing firm in the faith" is similar to the phrase "pray in the will of God". If you do not know God's will, which

is recorded in the Bible. It is impossible to know if you are praying in His will. Likewise, if you do not know the principles and rules that make up the faith, it is impossible for you to stand firm in the faith. Now there are many mistakes that we make as Christians and there are many lessons within the passage we have just read. But I am going to ask you to pray with me and for me as I work with just a portion of the 10<sup>th</sup> verse:

**10** and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. **They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.**

I have struggled all week with the theme and the struggle intensified as the week was drawing to an end. I knew God had something to say to His people but I could not put it all together until this morning. Would you consider this theme?

**YOU MIGHT HAVE TO CHANGE TO SEE JESUS!**

SHALL WE PRAY! God we your people stand in need of your Word and your saving grace. Speak to our minds so that we may clearly know what we are to do. Speak to our tongues so that we may clearly know what to say. Speak to our hearts so that we may learn clearly learn how to love. Speak to our feet and our hands so that they might do what you are called them to do. In the name of Jesus, we pray. AMEN and AMEN.

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Now if you have spent any time at all in church, studying your Bible or just hanging around those who do, you ought to know that the goal of this Christian journey is to see Jesus. It was just last week that we talked about being ready for His return. Just last week that we reviewed how Paul says things will happen when He returns. If you are able to agree that the goal of this Christian Journey is to see Jesus, can I get an AMEN?

But I wish to submit that we sometimes subconsciously or unconsciously lose track of the goal. It is those moments that I wish to explore today. Those moments when **our tongues and our thoughts get us in trouble.**

**1. We are silent when we should speak**

- not my business
- the leader (choir president, usher, moderator) ought to take care of it
- made me mad
- did not listen last time
- I am just a member it is the Pastor's job

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**2. We speak when we should be silent**

- not able to improve upon the silence do not speak
- check with the person in charge before you comment, the person you wish to correct might be following someone's directions
- engage your brain, wait a count of 3 before you speak

**James 1:26** Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless

**James 3:8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

**9** With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

**10** Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

**11** Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

**12** My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

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### 3. We speak what we do not know

- I heard
- I thought
- We use to

may not be the best reasons to speak

**Ephesians 4:25** Therefore, having laid aside falsehood, ***each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor***, for we are members of one another. **4:26 are angry and do not sin**; do not let the sun go down on the cause of your anger. 33 **4:27** Do not give the devil an opportunity

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### 4. We speak without concern for the person we are speaking to.

#### **1 Corinthians 13**

New International Version (NIV)

**13** If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

**Matthew 22:37** Jesus 44 said to him, "**Love 45 the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**' 46 **22:38** This is the first and greatest 47 commandment. **22:39** The second is like it: '**Love your neighbor as yourself.**' 48 **22:40** All the law and the prophets depend 49 on these two commandments."

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