

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... *the Lord is faithful* ...”**  
*2 Thessalonians 3:3*

The message from Paul in Second Thessalonians is very similar to the one in First Thessalonians. It is believed that Paul is responding to a letter that was written to Thessalonica against the efforts of Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians. Most naturally Paul wanted to set the record straight. So he rebuts and rebukes these “unreasonable” and “wicked” men.

There are two particular points of interest that Paul previously taught the church at Thessalonica. One point of interest has to do with the second coming of Christ. The other point of interest has to do with Christian conduct until He comes. For whatever reasons, Paul felt it necessary to encourage the believers at Thessalonica to remain steadfast in what they had learned by word or epistle (2:15). Paul told the believers at the church of Thessalonica to guard their witness to the extent that if necessary they were to individually “withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly.”

The message to the first century church of Thessalonica is pertinent to the churches of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, this message is not popular to a politically correct generation or society. Churches for the last twenty-five years have been too busy trying to make their premises and facilities comfortable and non-offensive to unregenerate sinners with the intention of “winning some to Christ.” Many who have practiced this form of church growth are now saying that “they might possibly have been mistaken in their methodology.” The adverse effects on Christian distinctives are irreversible; to the extent that even among conservative, evangelical churches of the Southern Baptist “denomination” there is disagreement on fundamental principles of church growth and discipleship. Thankfully, the Calvinism and Armenianism debate notwithstanding, Southern Baptists still agree on the doctrine of salvation. But when it comes to other distinctives (traditions) that Southern Baptists have held for generations (the name Baptist, music methodology, qualifications for the offices of pastor and deacon, biblical expressions of spiritual gifts, divorce and remarriage, drugs and alcohol, etc.), there is a great deal of disparity. And where there is an opportunity for divisiveness in any relationship, Satan and his demonic host is sure to make every effort possible, spiritually and naturally, to exploit it. Confusion, compromise, concession, and conduct unbecoming are the most frequent expressions of the enemy's influence.

Twenty-first century churches possibly face the greatest assault of indoctrination by false cults than any other period in history. Thanks to modern technology's effect on communication, the indoctrination by false cults is global, instant, multilingual, mass media, cross-cultural, politically advantageous and religiously acceptable. But it is also prophetic fulfillment.

What does the message of Second Thessalonians communicate to you? How does it affect your witness, service, ministry and testimony? Are you stirred with a sense of urgency and fervency to share the gospel? While it may appear and actually be that many people around you are “falling away” from the faith (I am not referring to a believer losing their salvation, once saved always saved), don't let their lack of devotion and commitment undermine your steadfastness. Remember, the Lord is faithful.

