

Our Chance To Model
2 Thessalonians 3

The Times

- In these days of uncertainty, we have an extraordinary opportunity to show all that Christ means to us, in how we behave, speak, shop, share, encourage, drive, and most of all, to take the time to share the love of Jesus whenever the opportunity comes up.
- Because we cancelled our church services, we have shown our respect to our government and to their leadership, as Paul directed us in Romans 13:1-14. Especially look at verse 14 which tells us to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ,” which is what we all really, really need to do now. He is our source of strength and daily guidance.

The Possibility

- In verse one of 2 Thessalonians chapter three, we see Paul's heart; that the Word spread rapidly and be glorified. During this pandemic, we need to be praying this happen. Some have been praying for revival, well, this is a perfect time to renew this call. Revival starts with God's people praying 2 Chronicles 7:13-14. And notice the use of pestilence. Very prevalent to our times don't you think? Will we humble ourselves, pray, seek, and turn from our evil ways? Will we renew our promise to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments/Word?
- Joshua 24:15 "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord?"

The Correction

- In verse 6, Paul tells us to keep away from unruly believers because they are living unruly lives. If, while reading this, you are convicted of living such a life, now is the time to repent and confess, and tell the Lord that you will live your life more devoted to Him and His Word.
- Christians are called to live a sensible and responsible life, and to live in such a way that we would be declared guilty before a judge of our way of life. Christian acts? Guilty! Love the Lord first? Guilty! Breaking mans' laws when they conflict with God's Laws? Guilty!
- Titus 2:1-14-3:2 reminds each people group how to live, speak and act in this world.

Our Work

- Paul set the example of how to work. He was a bi-vocational missionary, accepting money from donations, but also working with his own hands. In my first church, I was bi-vocational, but thanks to the wonderful folks at Christ Chapel, I am full-time. What does this mean for the church? Each one of us is called into ministry as the Lord asks from us from time to time. As we have time away from our jobs, we can help “our neighbors” as best we can. Physical labor, a meal, or just go visit them and listen. People love listeners!
- We are created to work and meant to find pleasure in the work of our hands. This pleases the Lord and blesses us with gratification.

The Model

- Lastly, Paul desired to live his life as an example, or model for others to follow. Paul had a special relationship with his Lord, and desired that we too have that special relationship. Read 1 Corinthians 11:1. That too is my heart's desire; that I am modeling Christ for you and the community, and I pray that is your desire too.
- You have heard this many times, but we must remember that we are an example of Christ to everyone we meet. The question is, what kind of an example are we presenting?

Closing Thoughts

- Let's remember that as Christians, we have the presence of the Holy Spirit living within us, and He empowers us to allow the fruit He brings, to bloom and become fruit that shines through us; Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- As the days are so uncertain, we need to meditate on each one of these portions of fruit. When you find anything that rises up in you to disturb you, pray through these 9 types of fruit which is available to you when you relax and depend on the One who created everything and is in control of everything, even when it doesn't look like it. PTL!