

February 14, 2016

## **“Thessalonica – A Model of Excellence: Keep On Keeping On!”**

*2 Thessalonians Chapters 2:13-3:18*

*“We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command.”*

*2 Thessalonians 3:4*

### **A. A challenge to keep on...**

1. God chose you first!

*“We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation...” NLT*

*“God picked you out as his from the very start. Think of it: included in God’s original plan of salvation by the bond of faith in the living truth.” The Message Vs 13*

2. God chose you first by His Spirit and your belief!  
*“a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth.” Vs 13*

3. God calls us to hold on to the teaching of God’s Word.

*“With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter.” Vs 15*

4. God calls us to keep on doing the good things He called us to do!

*“comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say.” Vs 17*

*“May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech.” The Message*

### **B. A prayer to keep on...**

1. We should always call on the prayers of one another.

*“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us.” Vs 3:1a*

2. We should always pray that the message of Salvation would spread and be honored.

*“Pray that the Lord’s message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.” Vs 3:1b*

3. Pray for God’s protection against evil and evil people.

*“Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer.” Vs 3:2*

4. Pray for God’s peace at all times and in all circumstances.

*“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation.” Vs 3:16*

### **C. A warning to keep on...**

1. Guard yourself from those who are idle.

*“Our orders—backed up by the Master, Jesus—are to refuse to have anything to do with those among you who are lazy and refuse to work the way we taught you. Don’t permit them to freeload on the rest. We showed you how to pull your weight when we were with you, so get on with it. We didn’t sit around on our hands expecting others to take care of us. In fact, we worked our fingers to the bone, up half the night moonlighting so you would be burdened with taking care of us. And it wasn’t because we didn’t have a right to your support; we did. We simply wanted to provide an example of diligence, hoping it would prove contagious.”*

*Vs 3:6-9 The Message*

2. Guard yourself with appropriate boundaries.

*“Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: ‘Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.’ Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people’s business.”*

3. Guard yourself with healthy expectations.

*“We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living.”*

4. Guard yourself against being impacted by others in their attitude and influence.

*“As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.” Vs 3:13*

### **D. An encouragement to keep on...**

1. God will lead you in understanding.

*“May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God” Vs 3:5*

2. God will give you patient endurance.

*“May the Lord lead your hearts into...the patient endurance that comes from Christ.” Vs 3:5*

3. God will give you a supportive family in Christ!

*“As for us, we can’t help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord.” Vs 2:13*

4. God called you to share in His glory!

*“He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Vs 2:14*

***“We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command.” 2 Thessalonians 3:4***

Coming Next:

A six-week sermon series for  
40 Days of Prayer and Fasting preceding Easter!  
February 21, 2016

**“The Pursuit: His Unrelenting Plan to Save Us!”**

*John 13-21*