2Thess #183

Your responsibility for growth begins after salvation.

No class next Sunday, I will be away for the weekend.

We will do the Lord’s Supper Tuesday March 4th.

We need to keep Rob and Marla in prayer as they have had a recent issue with their home. There appears to be a leak or some type of roof damage that could be very costly.

It has something to do with a misstep in the original construction.

Let us pray the insurance can cover that.

Open back up in our anchor study of 2Thessalonians chapter 3.

/2025 PRB Ministry Bible Conference;

November 7th – 9th @ VFW Post #8315

1000 John E. Peterson Blvd (FM 78)

Schertz, TX 78154

 (San Antonio airport – S.A.T.) \

Pick it up in verse 7 where the Apostle Paul is now engaged in the wake up and shake up portion of the letter.

This is the discipline and warning section that had to be addressed.

2Thes 3: 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined way among you,

[2Th 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/8/s_1119008) nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;

What probably started out with a few Bels falling for false doctrine and then reacting with carelessness and apathy, had turned into a growing problem.

[2Th 3:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/9/s_1119009) not because we do not have the right *to this,* but in order to offer ourselves as a role model for you, so that you would follow our example.

[2Th 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/10/s_1119010) For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

What probably started out with a few Bels falling for false doctrine, had then begun to spread into a lifestyle of apathy and laziness among several Bels.

A growing group of the congregation had now stepped back from their commitments to the ministry and even their normal working schedule and personal duties.

This brought stress on others to fill in the gap and even in some cases, several congregation members began financially supporting families who were involved in this lazy, work strike.

/[2Th 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/11/s_1119011) For we hear that some among you **are leading an undisciplined life**, doing no work at all, but **acting like busybodies**.\

[2Th 3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/12/s_1119012) Now we command and exhort such persons in the Lord Jesus Christ to work peacefully and eat their own bread.

[2Th 3:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/13/s_1119013) But as for you, brothers *and sisters,* do not grow weary of doing good.

Now part of the warning and discipline also had to include a comfort and solution for those who suffer the consequences of lazy co-workers and apathetic congregation members.

As a good leader you have to build up the faithful and hard workers under your authority.

Turn in your Bibles to the book of Acts chapter 8 RF.

This a very real and damaging problem in the natural life and the spiritual life.

There are always those who live off the hard work and blessings of others.

There is sound doctrine backing what I have mentioned recently. That is some people because of old age, or a medical disability, cannot work or support anything in a financial fashion.

That is understandable…actually in some cases, we can assist them when we have abundance ourselves.

This was not the issue.

This was addressed to able-body adults who just fell into apathy and took advantage of Christian generosity.

The Apostle writes this as a play on words; *being busybodies instead of being busy*, like everyone else is.

 REPEAT

One definition is seen as becoming useless in the ministry and in their personal life…not very loving, to call someone useless – yet at times, the difficult truths need to be put front and center in a hard manner.

It’s called tough love.

The Amplified Bible has a great definition very close to the original context;

/Amp- 2Thes 3:11 Indeed, we hear that some among you are disorderly – that they are passing their lives in idleness, neglectful of duty - being busy with other people’s affairs instead of their own and doing no work.\

Much of this is written in a Greek present tense – the Apostle Paul is saying I keep on hearing of this issue of laziness and problems in the congregation.

Because it keeps on happening and now it is growing.

Ignoring problems ensures they will not only continue… but they will escalate.

/There is an insidiousness in the nature of the person who cherry picks scripture, or twists doctrines to manipulate or take advantage of others. All Christians are responsible for their own understanding of the Bible. Once they have heard the sound doctrine, they are held accountable for that. Once a Bel begins to grow, they are responsible for what the SPIRIT is saying to the church.\

This means not only the accuracy of the WORD is important, but sitting under a prepared pastor-teacher.

The church is called to be under a living pastor and one who is accurately handling the word. All Christians can supplement their studies by the men of GOD who have gone home to be with the LORD – but *the SPIRIT speaking to the church*, is current and active in your daily life.

The cold, hard fact is you are held accountable for BD taught and metabolized in your life.

Especially what is being taught under your right pastor-teacher.

/Jam 4:17 So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, **for him it is sin**.

Jhn 15:22 “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but **now they have no excuse for their sin.\**

The Bel can only hide behind ignorance at the beginning of their spiritual journey. At some point, ignorance holds no protection.

/Rom 1:20 For **since the creation of the world** His invisible *attributes, that is,* **His** **eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived,** being understood by what has been made, so that **they are without excuse**.

Jhn 9:41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but **now *that* you maintain, ‘We see,’ your sin remains**.\

At this point in Acts 8 – the Apostle Paul was still on the war path as Saul of Tarsus and the death of the first deacon, Stephen had just occurred under his watch.

The other 11 apostles were all busy preaching and baptizing the early church members. This would have been only a few years after TLJC ascended back to heaven.

The Philip mentioned here is debated about, whether it was the apostle or the deacon - this was most likely one of seven deacons in the early church.

He was on a missionary journey going through Samaria. The deacons like Philip and Stephen, were excellent evangelists and they were sent outward on evangelist missions.

These were men who had seen the risen Christ, they were men who were of, the original followers of TLJC and some had been there on the day of Pentecost.

 /Act 8:9 Now a man named Simon had previously **been practicing magic**  (*mageuō)* in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, **claiming to be someone great;**

This comes from the Greek word for MAGI, which has its roots in the Hebrew term *rḇ mḡ,* originated in Babylon for magicians and official leaders.\

MAG-GOO, this meant a sorcerer or a dark magician. It also was a term used for those who were highly educated in astronomy, astrology, medicine, math and ancient practices.

RAV-MAG, came from Babylon as a title for many of the leaders there who practiced ancient arts and dark magic – soothsayers.

More often than not MAGI were trained in aspects of dark arts.

[Act 8:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/10/s_1026010) and all *the people,* from small to great, were paying attention to him, saying, “This man is the Power of God that is called Great.”

Satan always has counterfeits and plants his own seeds and pawns within every generation.

Some in plain sight, especially today – appearing as angels of light, yet they are agents of darkness, even behind the pulpits.

[Act 8:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/11/s_1026011) And they were paying attention to him because for a long time he had astounded them with his magic arts.

This is one of several reasons to avoid looking for signs, wonders and miracles.

Satan and his fallen angels are masters at the counterfeit of miracles, healings and signs.

This is a great lesson on the fact that even those who practice evil, even a person possessed by demons can find TLJC by simply having faith alone in Christ alone.

Not our lesson today, but a good principle to remember.

[Act 8:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/12/s_1026012) But when they believed Philip as he was preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were being baptized.

/[Act 8:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/13/s_1026013) Now **even Simon himself believed;** and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was *repeatedly* amazed.

The Greek verb – *pisteuō,* highlights the truth of real salvation. To fully accept and believe, to rely upon or mentally cling to with confidence.\

PISS-TO-OH, means to believe but it is not a surface level of a simple acknowledgement.

This means to cling upon and believe as truth.

One moment of real faith in TLJC ignites the saving ministry of GOD the HS – we know as efficacious grace.

[Act 8:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/14/s_1026014) Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,

/[Act 8:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/15/s_1026015) who came down and **prayed for them that they would receive the Holy Spirit.**

Notice, the early formation and foundation of the church relied upon a certain protocol that did not carry into later years – the one main factor was always faith alone in Christ alone.\

 [Act 8:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/16/s_1026016) (For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

/ They became saints in the new CA. Gentiles are just as much in the body of Christ as Jews, therefore there was a separate Pentecost, the Samaritan Pentecost, was to demonstrate this. This was only done in the first century for a period time for the foundation of the early church. Bels before the Cross of Christ (considered OT saints) were brought into the new CA in this fashion (Act 19). Many foundational protocols and gifts were temporary (1Cor 13).\

[Act 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/17/s_1026017) Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

/Water Baptism and laying on of hands for the indwelling of GOD the HS were not used any more after a period of time;

Eph 4:5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Mar 1:8 “I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”\

TLJC gave us the example of the thief on the cross in Luke 23.

That is the standard in the Church age.

/[Act 8:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/18/s_1026018) Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, **he offered them money,**

There is no manipulation, monetary or ritualistic act that brings a Bel into maturity. It is solely dependent upon the two power options and the free will of that Christian.\

Escrow blessings are available for all Christians – part of that is a personal sense of destiny and yet many never receive it.

[Act 8:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/19/s_1026019) saying, “Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

/It is believed this wicked magician crossed the salvation gate that day, yet he immediately stepped backward away from true responsibility in the plan of God. He sought out maturity and authority as well as the highest level of spiritual power in that historic time (apostleship) by his own flesh and human viewpoint.\

[Act 8:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/20/s_1026020) But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could acquire the gift of God with money!

[Act 8:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/21/s_1026021) “You have no part or share in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

The Apostle Peter did not want Simon to participate in any further activities in or around the apostles.

The Apostle Peter made an immediate statement of separation.

[Act 8:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/22/s_1026022) “Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord *that,* if possible, the intention of your heart will be forgiven you.

/[Act 8:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/23/s_1026023) “For I see that **you are in the gall** (*cholē*)**of bitterness**and in the bondage of unrighteousness.”

The bitterness is a poison deep in the soul, it is ingrained. The sinful nature was so deeply entrenched from a lifestyle of dark practices that it immediately resurfaced after salvation.\

CALL-AY, was a word used for bitterness or wormwood, a type of poison when taken in excess.

/The person who has gone so deeply negative and into demonic practices, as a lifestyle, often has many struggles after salvation. That is a deep root entangled within the OSN that is extremely potent. It is what many addicts and alcoholics face after becoming born again and saved. For some it is almost immediately removed and others it is a longer journey.\

Never become judgmental when a Bel stumbles in their walk with GOD – you are not walking in their shoes!

/[Act 8:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/8/24/s_1026024) But **Simon answered** and said, “**Pray to the Lord for me yourselves**, so that nothing of what you have said **may come upon me**.”

This shows Simon felt a true conviction of the Holy Spirit, but was not yet willing to humble his own heart before God. Peter couldn’t humble Simon’s heart for him. Acknowledging sin and adjusting to God’s plan is a solitary choice.\

/No Bel should place the responsibilities and accountabilities of their own Christian-walk upon others. If a Bel is able-bodied, in a healthy state of mind and body, they must accept responsibility for their life. Every Christian is called to be active in spiritual warfare, in a ministry and supporting themselves and families in this temporal life. Those in need should be assisted by those with an orderly and balanced lifestyle.\

We are to serve and give when we first have our own house in order.

You can never help someone who is down and out if you are also in a position of weakness.

/1Tim 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,\