2Thess #174

The undisciplined life is a pathway to misery.

Be prepared to partake in the LORD’s Supper at the end of the message today.

We will get back into our anchor study of 2Thessalonians chapter three, where we see the Apostle Paul has gotten the confused members back on track to accurate eschatology.

Now he has to warn them about separation and discipline for those who have gone too far off course.

This becomes the section of the letter where the Apostle Paul has to admonish and awaken those at Thessalonica who have become a distraction and a burden for the congregation.

2Thes 3:1 Finally, brothers *and sisters,* pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it was* also with you;

[2Th 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/2/s_1119002) and that we will be rescued from troublesome and evil people; for not all have the faith.

[2Th 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/3/s_1119003) But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

[2Th 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/4/s_1119004) We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing, and will do, what we command.

The Apostle Paul was pleased with the rapid growth that had happened when he planted the church. Yet there became false doctrines and counterfeit letters that were allowed into the congregation.

So much so, the doctrines of the Tribulation, the Rapture and the 2nd Advent had become skewed by many members.

Lies and counterfeits often have very strong legs and they spread quickly!

 REPEAT

Obviously, because Satan is the prince and power of the earth’s atmosphere. His demonic legion is very keen on counterfeits and shifting shadows.

[2Th 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/5/s_1119005) May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the perseverance of Christ.

[2Th 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/6/s_1119006) Now we command you, brothers *and sisters,* in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother *or sister* who leads a disorderly life and not one in accordance with the tradition which you received from us.

We covered this recently in the doctrine of separation.

When Bels go negative and they refuse to turn back toward the truth, there is a point where we separate for a period of time. This hopefully gets them back on track and also keeps our spiritual walk strong.

[2Th 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/7/s_1119007) For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined way among you,

The undisciplined life leads to misery.

The Christian who refuses to buckle down and get serious inside the WORD, never fully understands the plan of GOD and the calling of GOD upon their life.

This always leads to an undisciplined spiritual walk. Usually into legalism and religious dogma, or emotional nonsense and eventually peeling away… back into the filth of the cosmic system.

 REPEAT

[/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;\

[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.

From verse 6 into verse 12, the Apostle Paul uses a commanding set of sentences that all revolve around a reprimand and also, a reminder about the chain of command, highlighting the doctrine of authority.

Those who live a disorderly life, struggle with getting under and staying under authority.

Jump over to 2Timothy chapter 4 RF.

This is one reason every parent should support a teenager who wants to serve in the military – it will help steer them clear of this issue.

The Apostle Paul knew there was something negative brewing, possibly six months before he wrote the 2nd letter to Thessalonica.

/1Thes 5:14 We urge you, brothers *and sisters,* **admonish the unruly** (*ataktos*),encourage the fainthearted, **help the weak, be patient with everyone**.

The first letter already addressed the early stage of the current problem that came several months later. The early warning (1st letter) was designed to nip it in the bud.\

AT-AH-CUS was often used as a military term, for a soldier out of rank, one who steps out of line.

**Admonish,** written in a Greek present tense – The Apostle Paul is calling out elders or leaders to keep on top of this, keep on warning and reminding those who lack discipline to get back into line.

This is why the role of deacons and ushers in a church setting matters. They have to try to nip negative situations in the bud, before it becomes a distraction to other members and then a distraction for the pastor-teacher.

Now in this last letter to Timothy we see the Apostle Paul close to the end of his life. He was imprisoned, very weak and would be facing execution shortly after he wrote this.

2Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

[2Ti 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/7/s_1129007) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

The Apostle Paul had his fair share of failures and sins. Yet he kept the course, he used the Grace Plan of God to its fullest and reached super-grace maturity.

This is dying grace for the highest level of spiritual maturity. He is prepared and had a calm assurance.

/[2Ti 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/8/s_1129008) in the future there is **reserved for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, **will award to me on that day;** and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

This crown is believed to be reserved for those who have reached the highest levels of maturity. Therefore, enabling more authority and blessings in the heavenly realm.\

The day we receive these crowns (wreaths) and blessings for eternity, is at the Bema Seat judgment of Christ.

The Apostle Paul would probably, also receive the Crown of Glory for being a superior teacher and shepherd for the church of Jesus Christ.

The bible teaches about absolute bliss in heaven…yet it does not teach us about equality in heaven.

Most pastors refuse to challenge their congregation in the area of self-discipline, yet it is written about throughout the Bible.

Tickling the emotions is much more lucrative for many teachers.

 REPEAT

Those Bels who live an undisciplined life may end up as a loser in the heavens. Look what Paul wrote in the same letter, different chapter.

Once again emphasizing a spiritual battle, a physical and spiritual effort such as participating in a competition or sporting event:

/2Tim 2:5 And if someone likewise competes as an athlete, he is not crowned *as victor* **unless he competes according to the rules**.

The analogy of self-discipline as related to the rewards and decorations of eternity; this fact is woven throughout the teachings of the Bible.\

[2Ti 4:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/9/s_1129009) Make every effort to come to me soon;

The first letter to Timothy was written about 3 years earlier and now he is requesting one last visit from Timothy.

Also, he wanted the study notes that he obviously entrusted to men like Timothy and Luke.

Now we see what is referenced as the morning report, within a military command.

The list of units or soldiers, activities and mission of the day.

/[2Ti 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/10/s_1129010) for **Demas**, having **loved** this present **world**, **has deserted me** and gone to Thessalonica; **Crescens** *has gone* to Galatia, **Titus** to Dalmatia.

Demas was AWOL – he had peeled away, moving backward into the cosmic system. (Reversionism) \

Demas was written about as a member of Paul’s entourage in Colossians and Philemon. Demetrus may have been his full name and he was probably a Greek convert.

When the journey with the Apostle Paul became more challenging he fell backward into the devil’s world.

/Demas lacked the discipline to stay the course. Many Christians get past the stage one of God’s plan, salvation. Yet at stage two – the calling for intimacy and growth, becomes a challenge to their own plans and their own desires. Therefore, they begin to peel away, back toward their own comfort zone and lust patterns. Satan is a master of distraction and emotional manipulations. Many Christians fall victim to this exact ploy.\

Self-discipline and having a balanced and organized life, is one of the small steps and minor sacrifices along the way, at least until we gain some momentum.

The old saying, about eating an elephant one bite at a time is very true!

Now as many of you know – Titus was the Apostle Paul’s gunslinger, the trouble shooter.

He put Titus in several different settings. Each time Titus would rise to the occasion and solve the problem, or get the congregation under control.

Dalmatia was no different, it was a Roman occupied territory located on the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea, in what is now known as modern-day Croatia.

By the way, the Romans had an incredibly difficult time conquering the indigenous tribe there, who were considered one of many barbarian tribes – Titus was the perfect pastor-teacher to help get those folks in line.

Who we are going to look at, may surprise you, as not many teachers ever speak about this man – Crescens.

Except a select few…one who just so happens to be my spiritual grandfather –

Col. R. B. Thieme Jr.

Because he carved out a small lesson on this man - it really intrigued me and fits into this current study.

Demas whose name means – popular, is fairly fitting. He longed for popularity in the devil’s world.

Whereas, Crescens (KRES-CASE) means growth, taken from a Latin root word.

/Crescens (*krēskēs*), means growth or increasing. Believed to be one of the 70 disciples Jesus sent out to spread the good news (Luke 10). He is only mentioned one time in scripture. There is no historical evidence of Crescens ever leading a church as a pastor or a deacon. Yet, he may well be among a handful of winner Bels mention in the NT, who display the greatest illustration of what most Christians should exemplify in the CA.\

Increasing in knowledge and then increasing in service with their time, talent and treasure.

/Crescens’ inclusion in Paul’s inner circle suggests a mutual respect and shared vision for the expanding Christian community. This was a man who travelled under the authority of men like the Apostle Paul, carried doctrine and gospel messages, as well as nurturing, financial and emotional support into many regions. If just 50% of Christians today operated on this level – the accuracy of the BIBLE would explode across the world.\

In closing today, I want you to focus on the difference between two men with the same equal privilege and equal opportunities and how vastly different their lives ended up.

/Demas who is mentioned more than Crescens in NT scripture, lacked the discipline to not be drawn back into cosmic system ideologies. Crescens had the self-discipline to persevere and live his life in the light of eternity. Many Christians are very earthly minded and therefore, when the journey gets mundane or difficult they disappear. The Bel who lives like Crescens, recognize the need for growth and intimacy with the LORD, so they keep pursuing which leads to higher levels of spirituality. \

Once you get even a small glimpse of eternity and you truly begin to digest the plan of GOD from an academic or an educated viewpoint, not just an emotional high, your motivation toward self-discipline increases.

It is liking starting a new gym membership, or a new diet and you see results early on…it inspires you to keep going.

 REPEAT

Which is necessary for the consistent result of spiritual growth. The distractions of this temporal time in the devil’s world, begin to minimize and BD begins to maximize.

As we prepare to partake of the Lord’s Supper let us remember;

/God loves each one of us, yet HE can never neglect HIS own essence. That means, justice, righteousness as well as pure veracity can never be set aside for love or compassion;

Rom 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Act 10:34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him.\

/Both Demas and Crescens are loved by the LORD and both enter heaven, yet not with equal privileges;

Luk 19:17 “And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave; since you have been faithful in a very little thing, **you are to have authority over ten cities**.'\

The OT saints we read about such as Moses, David or Abraham - are elevated in the heavenly realm and so too are certain CA Bels.

TLJC laid it all on the line for those who hated HIM as much as those who loved HIM.

As we bring HIM into remembrance how can we ignore the offering of becoming more like HIM?

Participating in the FATHER’s grace plan, that was made possible by the suffering and death of Jesus Christ?

/Jhn 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Heb 12:2 looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.\

On the night our Lord was so bitterly betrayed, HE took the bread and broke it, lifting it up giving thanks.

HE said - this is MY body I give to you…take and eat.

In remembrance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us eat the bread.

In the same manner Jesus took the cup and lifted it up giving thanks.

HE said, this cup is a new and everlasting covenant… IN MY blood.

Each time you gather together and eat the bread and drink the cup, you shall bring ME into remembrance, until I return.

 Let us drink the cup in remembrance of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray…amen.