2Thess #149

The apostate Believer in your life, can bring as much damage as the Unbeliever.

Let us open in 2Thessalonians chapter 3.

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;

Pray is written in the present tense with an imperative mood…meaning the Apostle Paul, is almost commanding continued prayer for his ministry.

Reciprocal prayer is very important in the Christian Walk.

We pray for one another and we keep doing this in a type of prayer circle. That is done at our own individual pace and in our own way, and also sometimes by prayer groups as well.

Bels who understand they are under solid doctrinal teaching, should lift up the ministry and all who support it!

/[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.

In verse 2 what it appears like, as far as being closer to original language is like this;

/*2Thes 3:2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and evil men: for all men have not faith.*

Two types of people concerned Paul –

*Atopos-* (Bel) unreasonable, wicked and perverse in thought and behavior. Also, they are harmful or unrighteous.

*Ponēros-* (Unbel)evil, one who opposes righteousness, a wicked nature, diseased or bad and venomous against Christianity.\

*AUTOE-PAS-* is used when something or someone is off, they are not compliant but difficult and oppose what is right.

*PON-AH-ROS-* is where we get our English word pornography from, something or someone who brings forth darkness or evil.

The Apostle Paul is well aware that the unreasonable Bel or the one who rejects truth is a very difficult challenge to teach and they may even attack truth.

The Unbel - is walking in darkness and therefore they easily become agents of Satan.

A Bel can become influenced by demonic forces and they can do as much damage, if not more in the life of growing Christian then the Unbel.

/2Thessalonians was written around the time of the Apostle Paul’s 2nd missionary journey (51 AD), which means he was becoming very familiar with the attacks from the kingdom of darkness. He knew who wanted to hinder the work of the gospel. The Apostle Paul wanted God to either deliver him from such men, or change them into reasonable and godly men.\

Which is the attitude we all have to have.

We ask God if possible, to delivery us from people who consistently put stumbling blocks in our path, they attack and ridicule us.

The Apostle Paul is not afraid and he knew challenges and adversity are part of our testing for growth.

Yet, we request in prayer - that *IF IT IS in God’s will and part of the plan* for your life - that certain attacks or negative people can be removed from your path. Or perhaps they finally accept the truth and come to the light.

REPEAT

The hardest part for many Christians who are growing to fully digest – is the fact, that negative Bels can become a huge stumbling block, almost the same and sometimes more so, than an Unbel.

/That is a sign of a step toward maturity, you realize the challenges and tests. You are not living in an emotional rollercoaster of fear and doubt or anxiety. But occasionally you request God to remove or assist with the wickedness and roadblocks you have popping up repeatedly in your life. The fact is, we live in a fallen world, dominated by a satanic ideology with Unbelievers and sadly, negative Believers in our daily path.\

There are levels to a negative Bel - as far as how far they have removed themselves from truth.

We hear terms like negative Believer, apostate Bel or carnality - and they do describe different levels of a reversionism.

Apostasy is one of worse levels of negativity for the born again Bel.

The most intimate relationship you have after your relationship with TLJC is seen in marriage.

Secondary - would be your closest friends and also, who you sit under as a pastor-teacher.

These relationships are consistent and very intimate as well as deeply penetrating within your soul structure.

REPEAT

Intimate relationships have to be very cautiously approached, before making close commitments…marriage is incredibly intimate.

This is why warnings are written throughout the Bible about who you get close too in your life.

/2Cor 6:14 **Do not be mismatched with unbelievers**; for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness?

Exo 34:16 and you might take some of his daughters for your sons, and **his daughters might prostitute themselves with their gods** and cause your sons *also* to prostitute themselves with their gods.\

There may be no greater lesson then the Nation of Isreal and how they were infiltrated time and again, by foreign idols and seeds of Satan.

/Deu 7:2 and when the LORD your God turns them over to you and you **defeat them, you shall utterly destroy them**. You shall not make a covenant with them **nor be gracious to them**. 3 “Furthermore, **you shall not intermarry with them**: you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons.\

Isreal never fully wiped the land clean of the evil tribes under satanic ideologies.

That is what ultimately weakened them and destroyed them, handing themselves over to Divine Discipline.

/Ezr 9:1 Now when these things had been completed, the officials approached me, saying, “**The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites** **have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands**, as to their abominations, *those* of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. 2 “For they have taken some of their daughters *as wives* for themselves and for their sons, **so that the holy line has intermingled with the peoples of the lands**; indeed, the hands of **the officials and the leaders have taken the lead in this unfaithfulness**.”\

Knowing the signs and symbols of backsliding and becoming negative is imperative for not only yourself, but those in your periphery.

You have to be on the alert as to who or what may drag you away from BD.

/Many Christians fool themselves into thinking having fellowship with Unbels or negative Bels, or becoming intimate with cosmic system ideologies won’t touch their soul. The old saying in the halls of N.A. & A.A is – *if you hang around a barbershop long enough you will get a haircut!*  Which holds great truth within it.\

A wise Christian should never play fast and loose with their spiritual growth.

The Doctrine of Separation is real and many times, it is needed in our spiritual walk.

Turn to Romans chapter 7 RF.

/A carnal Believer can still be positive toward doctrine and faithful in using the rebound technique. So, therefore they have a negative aspect within their walk if carnality is dominating their lifestyle. Each time a Believer sins, they step out of spirituality and into carnality. It only takes a moment of positive thought to adjust to the justice of God. It is only a problem when the accounts of carnality lengthen and the spiritual walk shortens, that a stronghold of negativity begins to set in.\

It takes only a moment to recover from carnality by the use of rebound, name and cite the sin.

Carnality describes the Believer out of fellowship with God and in a state of sin, they are under the control of the old sin nature. This becomes a call for free will decisions toward God.

In Romans chapter seven it is a great teaching on not putting yourself under the LAW as far as religious rigors.

The Apostle Paul is teaching them the principle that TLJC came to fulfill all the laws and commands. Therefore, we should not go backward into Judaism, meaning religion - but forward into true Christianity - a relationship.

The Apostle Paul uses marriage as a teaching tool – we can only be married to Christ, not married to a set of laws and commands already fulfilled, while still being married to Christ.

Polygamy is a sin.

The Mosaic Law he references as the first husband and the first husband is put to rest, he no longer is alive - and we are removed from that marriage.

This becomes a great lesson on the OSN and the struggle we all are called into during this temporal walk.

It really begins to get deep into the sin nature in chapter six first.

Both chapters point to the OSN and the fact that it is been crucified with Christ. Pointing to the OSN - at the same time it puts to rest the Mosaic law and commands of the OT.

You see, the LAW and commands are perfect and righteous and only Christ could fulfill them. This is why we all need to accept TLJC as our Lord and Savior - that way we can fulfill the whole of the Bible.

/Rom 7:14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but **I am fleshly** (*sarkinos*), sold into bondage to sin.

This is a term known as carnal (fleshly), earthly or cosmic in our nature (OSN).\

SOC-KEE-NOS, this means the flesh, it is carnal and the original language uses that term carnal in verse 14.

Now the Apostle Paul is saying the LAW which is from the mind of Christ is perfect, yet mankind is fleshly.

Now he is going to open up about his own struggle with the flesh, because we are all in the same spiritual battle.

Keeping in mind, the Apostle Paul is well into his walk with Christ, at least 20 years born again and saved.

/[Rom 7:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/7/15/s_1053015) For I do not understand what I am doing; for **I am not practicing what I want *to do,*** but I do the very thing I hate.

Carnality is the OSN pulling us toward the dead husband (flesh), being unfaithful to our true husband - CHRIST.\

There is no such thing as sinless perfection and the Apostle Paul is opening up a very intimate look into his own spiritual battle.

/*The intensely personal character of these verses (Rom 7:15-25) and the use of the present tenses indicate that this was Paul’s own experience as a Believer.*

*Dr. Charles C. Ryrie \*

It is believed that the Apostle Paul was giving an overview of the spiritual battle we all face, including himself within this lesson is very personal.

There is great guess-work about some of Apostle Paul’s personal struggles within theological circles.

The question arises - was it arrogance and legalism or lust, anger or drunkenness?

The fact is… it doesn’t matter, we are all struggling with our own OSN and it is between you and GOD.

The Apostle Paul backs up several of these contradictory scriptures with the fact that he hates sin and does not want to do it.

This speaks to the new nature and God the HS sounding the alarm deep within the soul structure – that still small voice of GOD that all Bels have. It comes down to what you do with your free will.

This is designed as a tremendous lesson in chapters six and seven - about legalism, religious lies and the struggle of the OSN.

/Gal 5:17 For **the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh**; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want.\

Once the Bel understands the concept of the flesh and the new nature and the spiritual battle between those two natures – they begin to move away from works programs, as well as guilt and shame.

The Bel matures and realizes they must take responsibility for their free will decisions…they realize that there is no license to sin in God’s grace plan.

REPEAT

/2Cor 5:17 Therefore if **anyone is in Christ, *this person is* a new creation**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Gal 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a **new** **creation**.\

There is a sin nature and new nature and this is something within our temporal walk that becomes a large portion of our spiritual battle.

The sooner you know this and accept this the better your spiritual walk will become.

/Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since **you stripped off the old self** with its *evil* practices, 10 and **have put on the new *self,* which is being renewed** to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it—\

[Rom 7:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/7/16/s_1053016) However, if I do the very thing I do not want *to do,* I agree with the Law, that *the Law is* good.

Of course, the LAW is good - it is the mind of Christ.

The Bel walking in the new nature habitually wants to fulfill the mind of Christ.

[Rom 7:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/7/17/s_1053017) But now, no longer am I *the one* doing it, but sin that dwells in me.

It is a nature within me – the Apostle Paul is making a strong statement that we all have to recognize the two natures.

/[Rom 7:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/7/18/s_1053018) For **I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh**; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not.\

There is nothing we can do in the flesh that is recognized as spiritual.

[Rom 7:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/7/19/s_1053019) For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.