2Thess #160

Find true strength in your confidence through Christ.

Let us open back into our anchor study of 2Thessalonians chapter 3.

Within this last section of the 2nd letter to the congregation at Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul is going to lay down some discipline and guidelines.

This is to resolve the problem of those who fell for the false eschatology.

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.

He is highlighting Unbels and those negative Bels, who become our stumbling blocks toward SM.

[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.

Satan is the author of evil and as we have seen, there are some differences between sin and evil.

For the growing Bel who is taking their relationship with GOD seriously, they have greater strength and protection in the angelic conflict.

/[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**.\

[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 leadsa disorderly life and not one in accordance with the tradition which you received from us.

/2Thes 3:4 *We have confidence*-

*Peithō, (Perf. Act. Ind.)* It is a full, completed faith and a strong belief which is already in place. The Apostle Paul has had confidence and remains in a solid faith from doctrine and his relationship with Christ.\

PIE-THO, this Greek verb is written in the perfect tense – meaning it is complete, the perfect tense points backward and forward, toward a full completion. It is already done to satisfaction and it continues to remain complete.

The ACTIVE voice points to the maturity level of Paul, the INDICTIVE mood relates to the fact that this has already occurred and it is rock solid – a dogmatic statement of fact.

/This confidence, is seen by what it can produce – visible or tangible results; obedience, strength, firm faith, trust and compliance. This is not a surface agreement or a positive nod, this is backed up by a lifestyle. The Apostle Paul knows the majority of Bels at Thessalonica have heard the accuracy of truth. He also knows his strength and confidence are in his relationship with Christ, which nullifies any doubt or concern in life.\

Because the Apostle Paul keeps growing and remaining in the new nature, more so than the old nature. He has a level of confidence that many Christians never achieve.

He is confident in what he teaches. Also, the fact that GOD the HS will work HIS ministry on those who are positive toward the teaching.

/2Thes 3:4 - *that you are doing, and will do, what we command;*

*You are doing –* (present tense)

*Will do* – (future tense)

The Apostle Paul is putting forth a confident and strong statement – keep doing what you have been taught and keep following our commands and teaching going forward.\

True faith is the greatest confidence you can acquire – it is shown in your life at different points through obedience, strength of character and divine integrity.

The fruit of the Spirit eventually comes forth from true faith.

The majority of Christianity have a lip service faith, a shallow confidence, because their relationship with Christ is shallow.

 REPEAT

/The only avenue toward spiritual maturity is found in Epistemological Rehabilitation. Because we are born in sin and surrounded by a cosmic system opposed to the truth of the Mind of Christ. Therefore, a CA Bel has to become fully acquainted and indoctrinated into the accuracy of the teaching of Christ. This happens through the NT teaching of the apostles.\

New thoughts, concepts and vocabulary from accurate BD, accepted into the soul of a Believer has to begin sometime after salvation.

The longer a new Christian avoids buckling down to study and get serious into the WORD, the longer they remain feckless in spiritual warfare and truly stagnant in their walk with God.

 REPEAT

The NT epistles are the core and foundation for all CA Bels. They are built upon by OT studies that support and guide into the NT teachings.

/Rom 15:4 For **whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction**, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

1Cor 10:11 Now **these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.\

The Christian makes choices to remain ignorant toward truth and active in the cosmic system by seeking the path of least resistance, in the area of knowledge and spiritual growth.

In the end we are all accountable and responsible for our own ignorance.

Ignorance of accurate BD becomes a personal responsibility and a personal failure at some point after salvation.

A Believer can not remain distant from the WORD, while speaking about having a strong faith and love for the LORD – it is an oxymoron.

There is no relationship with GOD apart from intimacy within the WORD.

Truth is singular, therefore what you study in relation to truth - matters immensely.

Jump over to Ephesians chapter 3 RF.

There are four glaring skills that reveal how serious a Christian is with the mind of Christ;

/Divine power - (two power options) replaces reliance on the flesh.

Divine Grace - (understanding and living in God’s plan) replaces legalism and arrogance.

Divine viewpoint - (Mind of Christ) replaces cosmic system ideologies and human viewpoint.

10 problem solving devices – replace the doubts and anxiety of solving life issues & challenges.\

This is only seen within the life of a Bel who has been undergoing Epistemological Rehabilitation.

Mystery Doctrine, dispensations, the doctrine of the Hypostatic union, the filling power of GOD the HS - among many other doctrines become a language and set of categories of theology you understand.

If these types of terms and theology are foreign to you, it may be because you haven’t had any growth since salvation.

Getting under the right teaching is imperative.

Ephesians is a circular letter designed to go out to several locations.

One of the clarifications in this letter is that anyone is welcomed into the family of God…simply have faith in Christ.

Jew or Gentile - are no longer distinguished in union with Christ. Paul specifies we were all dead until we became alive in Christ. Adoption and redemption are highlighted.

In this section the Apostle Paul emphasizes mystery doctrine and the dispensation of the Church which he has been given authority to help establish.

Much of this is referencing his personal prayers for all the churches.

Eph 3:14 For this reason I bend my knees before the Father,

[Eph 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/15/s_1100015) from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

God the Father is the author of everything and everyone;

/[Eph 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/16/s_1100016) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to **be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self,**

The power, protection and growth, are all dependent upon the willingness of a Bel to learn and apply BD. The inner self is the library and the Edification Complex of the soul. \

The true YOU…is in the soul structure and all that resides within it.

You have to be willing to absorb and expand your own ideologies and norms and standards.

The Bible is designed to change you…not you trying to change the Bible to fit your life.

/[Eph 3:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/17/s_1100017) **so that Christ may dwell** in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being **rooted and grounded in love**,

Christ (union) is indwelling every Bel, yet many have no clue how to use it and nurture it. The choice is up to you! \

ROOTED and GROUNDED – both are written in a Greek perfect tense – meaning they already have been done and we are to now walk or stand in that completed work.

What is the completed work? –

Virtue Love.

This is true Godly love – this is the love TLJC applied and walked in every day. Especially during the last days and moments leading up to the death of HIS humanity.

/Rooted -*rizoō,* firmly fixed, strongly established.

Grounded -*themelioō,* a foundation that is permanent. To be settled into position.

No Bel can have this depth of balance and core strength, unless they are walking habitually in the new nature. This means a foundational power from Virtue Love (impersonal, unconditional).\

REE-ZOT-OH, meaning to be firmly fixed, rooted like an oak tree, deep, strong roots.

THE-MILLY-OT-OH, comes from a Greek word for a foundation.

/[Eph 3:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/18/s_1100018) **may be able to comprehend** with all the saints what is **the width** and **length**and **height**and **depth,**

None of the depth and power within this type of confidence and comprehension is found outside of a serious study of the NT epistles.\

[Eph 3:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/19/s_1100019) and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.

Notice how the Apostle Paul keeps using the terms - *may come* to the knowledge and *might know* the depth – because your free will matters.

GOD will not force HIS word and greater spiritual growth upon any Christian.

Just as HE will never force anyone to come to a personal faith in HIS precious SON.

GOD makes salvation and HIS knowledge available and easy to gain. Our Triune GOD does all the work …yet there is a positive volition needed and effort after salvation to grow toward maturity.

[Eph 3:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/20/s_1100020) Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

[Eph 3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/3/21/s_1100021) to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Your race, your background, status, I.Q., or any other human factor does not hinder you from executing the protocol plan of God. Because it is all grace and it is designed for flawed humanity.

We are given everything we need to come to know Christ and to come to grow in HIS grace and knowledge.

/Your confidence & strength are directly related to what you have taken in after salvation, concerning grace gifts, learned BD, accepted as truth and begin to apply. There can be no contradictions in a perfect plan from a perfect God. A perfect God can only devise a perfect plan. A perfect GOD is never a tyrant and is always gracious and merciful, while remaining tethered to justice and righteousness.\

In fact, perfection…divine perfection, must answer to justice and righteousness first.

Refusal to recognize accurate teaching such as Mystery Doctrine of the CA is refusal to grow in God’s plan.

It is an arrogant defiance to understand the mind of Christ.

Christians who kick against the calling to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, usually end up relying on one of 5 avenues for application and understanding scripture.

 REPEAT

The most common five applications and understanding about God’s plan in Christianity are rooted in – Morality, Emotions, Human works, Social status or social justice and the Philosophy to improve self.

/ - Morality is not the Christian way of life. Morality can be flawed by human viewpoint; it can become degenerate.

* Emotion is not the Christian way of life. The Christian way of life is a supernatural way of life and demands a supernatural means of execution. It is a thinking and application-based way of life.\

Remember something – anything the Unbeliever can do, is not considered spiritual or divine work.

Unbels can be very moral, very emotional and very loving or generous in many aspects of life.

/ - Good works, the flesh is corrupt, therefore anything done by the power of the flesh (I.Q., motivation or physically) is a deed of the flesh. It is counted as wood, hay and stubble to be burned up (Bema Seat Judge).

* Social applications, (Christian fellowship or Christian activism) this is not the Christian way of life. Social status or standards play no role in a Christian’s Walk with GOD concerning growth. \

Christian fellowship is important when it is applied in the right fashion (Filling power of the HS). Just as how you handle yourself in social settings reflect Christ in a positive fashion or a negative fashion.

Yet social status or standards like this, are the results of growth – they do not assist your growth, they display your FRUIT of the Spirit.

 REPEAT

/-Philosophical applications are not the Christian way of life. Self-improvement programs and cosmic system ideologies, or agendas, designed to tame the flesh or diminish the OSN are nothing more than cheap band-aids on severe cuts. Philosophy from the devil’s world is designed for confusion, or to distract you from the WORD and depend upon self. Human philosophy gives rise to arrogant thoughts and outlooks upon the power of the flesh.\