

# sermon notes

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August 14, 2022 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship  
Kingdom Come | “A Pastoral Plea for the Church” | **2 Thess 3:1-5**

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*Paul pleads with the church to be a people of ...*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (3:1-2)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (3:3)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (3:4)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (3:5)

## Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5. What does Paul pray for the Thessalonians in verse 5? Paul prays for the church (2:16-17; 3:5) and asks the church to pray for him (3:1-2). How should church leaders be praying for church members? How should church members be praying for their leaders?

What does Paul mean by “not all have faith” (3:2)? Does the truth of the gospel message hinge on the response of the hearer? Should we be discouraged when some people reject the gospel and reject Christian faith? Why or why not?

How does God guard us from the evil one (3:3)? Will God allow Satan to tempt us and bring evil into our lives (like Job in the OT)? What are we promised in the Bible concerning Satan? What are we promised now and also in the future?

### GET PERSONAL

Paul was confident that the Thessalonians were obedient to Scriptural truths (3:4). Are you obedient to Scripture in your life? If so, how? Are there things in your life that you are convicted of, that you have never truly repented of and turned away from?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What prayer needs does Paul relay to the Thessalonians in 2 Thess 3:1-2? Why are these needs important to Paul? Are you praying these things for your church and your leaders? Should we do that as a church? Take a moment right now to pray for your church leaders. Pray specifically for those who communicate the word of the Lord in the church. Ask God to “speed” the proclamation of the gospel in our world.

### ADVANCED QUESTION

Paul prays in 3:5 that the Lord will direct “your hearts to the love of God.” Is Paul praying that 1) the hearts of the Thessalonians will be directed to a love for God (objective use of the genitive)? Or 2) that the hearts will be directed to God’s love for them (subjective use of the genitive)? Or both? Read the following article by Bill Mounce for more on this grammatical issue:

<https://www.billmounce.com/monday-with-mounce/hebraic-genitives-1-tim-1-11>

This is a classical issue in Greek grammar (i.e., the difference between the objective and subjective use of the genitive). Consult a technical commentary on 2 Thessalonians for help in deciding this issue. See the following options:

<https://bestcommentaries.com/1-2-thessalonians/>

Evaluate also the last prepositional phrase: “the steadfastness of Christ.” Is Paul saying that our hearts should love and meditate on Christ’s steadfastness (subjective genitive)? Or does it mean that our hearts should imitate Christ’s steadfastness (objective)? Or does it mean both?