

Stand Firm

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

2 Thessalonians 3:6-7

6 **Now** (in light of all we have studied) **we command/exhort you, brethren,** (believers) **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,** (under His authority) **that you keep away from every brother** (believers in JESUS CHRIST) **who leads an unruly life** (contrary to the Word of God) **and not according to the teaching which you received from us.**

7 **For** This conjunction presents a contrast between believers who live disorderly lives and believers who live orderly, disciplined lives and which one every believer should strive to live.

For you yourselves know The letters to the believers in Thessalonica are very personable;

1 Thessalonians 2:1

for you yourselves know, brethren that our coming to you was not in vain,

1 Thessalonians 3:3

...for you, yourselves know...

1 Thessalonians 4:9

...for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another

1 Thessalonians 5:2

For you yourselves know that the day of the Lord
(2nd Advent) **will come just like a thief in the night**

And now in 2 Thessalonians 3:7 **For you yourselves know** and how do they know?...; They know because Paul has taught them, and they listened and received Paul's teaching as the Word of God.

The introduction: **for you yourselves** (is emphatic) **know** (no excuses, no one in this assembly can plead ignorance, they have not only been taught well, but an example has been put before them.)

WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

how you ought

This is an interesting word and concept. There are things we ought to do in this life, but unfortunately we do not always *do what we ought to do*.

This word refers to what is **necessary** in our lives when you take into consideration the importance of our lives in the Plan of God.

We saw the importance of this verb in 1 Thessalonians 4:1

- 1 **Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.**

2 Thessalonians 3:7

- 3 **For you yourselves know how you ought to follow or imitate our example**

Another excellent passage on what to imitate: Hebrews 13:7

7 **Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith**

And another very important verse on imitating someone:

Hebrews 6:12

12 **so that you will not be sluggish**, (this means not be apathetic, inactive in such things as bible study, walking by Faith, prayer etc.) **but imitators of those who through faith and patience** (longsuffering, long tempered in respect to others—especially those with whom you live or are often around) **inherit the promises.**

1 Thessalonians 3:7

7 **For you yourselves know how you ought to follow or imitate our example**

Preachers, theologians, teachers etc., often want to make some great BREAKTHROUGH in interpreting Scripture. and often gain a following because they are different. And believers want to start doing something different—in their teaching, in their singing, --type of music; in communion; prayer, etc. All to be different, to show that they have found something new.

It is so difficult to decide from the study of the bible who is DOING OR SAYING SOMETHING RIGHT ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE---AND IMITATE!! No, I can't imitate, I have to be different so people will follow and imitate me!!!

People, study the Word, note those in the Word of God who are doing or saying it right, and imitate them!!! Don't be impressed

with someone who has discovered something no one else has seen but you!!

So, why should they imitate Paul?

**because we did not act
in an undisciplined manner among you,**

This is the adverb form of the same verb we noted in verse 6 referring to believers who live an unruly life. The adverb means **to live a disorderly life, or undisciplined life** around these believers.

*HOW DO YOU NOT LIVE A DISORDERLY OR
UNDISCIPLINED LIFE?*

By consistently **walking by Faith in Holy Spirit**; being consistent in bible study, prayer, and by living an orderly life in all areas of your life.

You know ... you ought...to imitate us

Coming up...in your social behavior with one another.

Apostles model

1 Thessalonians 3:8

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and/even hardship (wearisome labor ; this is what the prosperity gospel proclaimers preach against, if God loves you, you will not have to do wearisome labor but will be prosperous; This is also the kind of work that most people try to avoid—wearisome labor.)

Next Paul explains wearisome labor:

we *kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;*

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we *kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;*

We saw how important this was to Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:9

9 **For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.***

2 Thessalonians 3:9

9 **not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.**

THE PASTOR BEING PAID

1 Paul or any teacher of the Word of God has a right before man and God to receive payment for his study and teaching. *Beans for gold.*

2 But Paul is going into a new area with the gospel of Christ and did not want to make a false issue out of money.

3 Paul worked –at a salary paying job—during the day and night, whenever he had the opportunity of work.

4 Paul did not take an offering from these people, because he did not want to distract from the issue of the Gospel and to be an example to them in living a life that would glorify JESUS CHRIST.

5 Paul came into Thessalonica and evangelized, and gave them sound teaching on many aspects of doctrine from JESUS CHRIST to salvation to prophecy. He worked night and day

Christianity and the Welfare state

2 Thessalonians 3:10

10 **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.** If we can take other moral principles in the Word of God directed toward believers and apply them to unbelievers as well, this certainly can also be applied. If all people are not to lie, if all people are not to commit adultery, then all people are to work.

**Lets carefully note some principles here:
if anyone is not willing to work.**

Paul is not addressing those who are not able to work but those who are physically able to work but simply do not want to work. This is the present tense of the verb referring to the will, desire, plus the negative... they are not willing to work. Therefore he does not eat.

It is a strong indictment against America today that one of the primary people running for President of this country, has declared himself a **socialist** and part of that problem is the number of Americans who support him and think that **socialism** is a good and desirable form of government.

One of the problems is that our educational system of our young people does not teach them history and what the forms of government are about.

Socialism:

noun:

Socialism: a political and economic theory of social organization that advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole. Which of course means a select few make all the decisions
(Google)

Socialism is an economic system in which private property is transferred to the state and operation of the means of production and distribution are controlled by the government. In Marxist theory,

socialism is the transitional phase between **capitalism** and **communism**. (Understanding the Times)

Liberalism:
Secular Humanistic Worldview

An educational system based on a **Secular Humanistic Worldview** A political tradition emphasizing personal liberties and equality over traditional moral concerns, specific policies include a woman's right to abortion, promotion of same sex marriage, equal rights for women and redistribution of wealth. (determined of course by those in control) (Understanding the Times).

By the way you should be familiar **with Secular Humanistic Worldviews** for it is the dominate view taught in our colleges and universities. And is taught under the banner of **Liberalism**. It is the dominate guide in forming such things as **Agenda 21** and **Agenda 20-30**.

Multitude of Christian young people are walking away from their Christian faith because of **Secular Humanism**.

Marxism

The worldview developed by Karl Marx centered around **atheism, dialectical materialism, evolution** and **socialism**. (Understanding the Times)

Materialism

the belief that reality consist only of material elements. There is no God, there is no spiritual value to man, who is but the result of evolution.

Dialectic: A Hegelian process involving thesis, antithesis with the synthesis being a higher form of truth. Not God, and definitely not the Word of God.

Communism a political theory derived from Karl Marx, advocating class war and leading to a society in which all property is publicly owned (government owned) and each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs. (Google)

Communism: The Marxist goal of a future utopia in which all resources for production are owned in common by a classless society. (Understanding the Times)

Capitalism

an economic system in which investment in and ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange of wealth is made and maintained chiefly by private individuals or corporations, especially as contrasted to cooperatively or state-owned means of wealth (Google)

Capitalism an economic system based on the peaceful and free exchange of goods and services, where all or most of the means of production and distribution are privately owned and operated for profit. (Understanding the Times)

So many of these get so involved with others: synonyms:

Leftism, Welfarism; Radicalism, Progressivism, Social Democracy Labor movement; policy or practice based on the political and economic theory of **socialism**.

Islam

One of the most important concepts that you need to understand today is that the Islamic movement is not just religious but is highly political. In fact they are one and the same. It is religious political system of belief. If not on the religious side, we should understand **Islamic political system**. They seek to rule the world—most American leaders are in denial about this aspect of Muslims. I have no doubt that considering the weak soul of Republican congressmen that the next member of the Supreme Court will either be a Muslim or a strong Muslim supporter, who does not see the evil of Shari'ah law and how different it is from our own Constitution.

“One major difference between the founder of Christianity and the founder of Islam is the fact that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and Muhammad had many flaws.”

Yet to Muslims he is the one to be imitated by all Muslims.

The Hadith presents Muhammad as he exemplary human whom Muslims must imitate in all respects. “ Muhammad’s practice and constant encouragement of bloodshed are unique in the history of religion.

Murder, pillage, rape and more murder as depicted in the Koran” (and encouraged in Shari’ah law) “and in the traditions seem to have impressed his followers with a profound belief in the value of bloodshed as opening the gates of paradise.

This translates into how the average Muslim views the world an open-ended conflict between the Land of Peace (Dar al-Islam) and the land of War (Dar al-Harb) The history of Islam from 622 A.D. to the present has been a history of violence and war toward infidels” – all non Muslims, especially Jews and Christians. Yet our President wrote in his book that in the end he would choose to side with the Muslims.

So, when you consider...

**Socialism,
Communism,
Liberalism,
Human Secularism,
Marxism,
Capitalism**

...and realize that all but one is anti-Christianity you will see why it is so important that we as Christians know what we believe and why and are committed to die for JESUS CHRIST!

Let’s close with just a closer look at **Secular Humanism**, which is the foundation of all the modern ideologies, like **Progressive Democracy**

and **Agenda 21** and **Agenda 20-30** and all the **Secularism's** taught in colleges and universities and even churches. "man is the measure of all things" "**humanism** is faith in **math**, in **science**, in **education**."

"**Humanism** holds that human beings shape their own destiny. Whether there are gods or not is not so important as the belief we should not expect God to solve errors humans make. Humans have an ability to improve the human condition",

Encyclopedia Americana states: "**Scientific Humanism** aims to supplant religion and make scientific knowledge the instrument of freeing man and enhancing his life. To this end science and technology must be humanized and socialized, and man educated to respond positively to rapid change"

Encyclopedia Britannica states: "*In recent years the term Humanism has often been used to refer to value systems that emphasize the personal worth of each individual, but do not include a belief in God,*" ... A **Humanist** is one who believes that Christ was mere man;

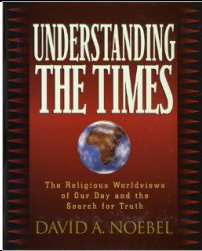
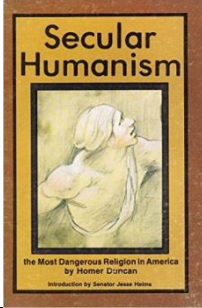
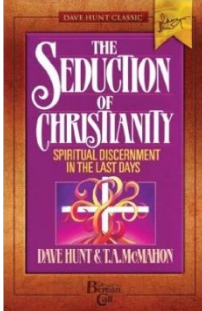
An **anti-Trinitarian**

One who holds that perfectibility of the human race is attainable without superhuman aid." I am appointed by God to teach the Word of God, but we are not to be ignorant of the schemes of Satan.

2 Corinthians 2:11

11 **so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.**

For those of you who desire to know more of what is going on in our society and in the world here is a very brief list of some important books:

- 1  Understanding The Times by David A. Noebel
- 2  Secular Humanism by Homer Duncan
- 3  The Seduction of Christianity by Dave Hunt and T.A. McMahon

These three will get you started and direct you to a multitude of other sources.

As for me personally I side with Jude:

Jude:1:3

3 **Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.**

People we are to make it our goal to live a simple quiet life (1 Thessalonians 4:11) but make no doubt about this, we are in a battle, a conflict and therefore Jude beckens us to **contend earnestly** (which means carry on a conflict, fighting a war, to struggle) **for the faith –of the content of the gospel.**

And we have many to follow after in this battle:

Hebrews 11:33

33 **who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of righteousness*, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,**

And how do we fight this battle of faith?

Ephesians 6:10-11

10 **“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. (In the Holy Spirit)**

11 **Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil**

Jude:1:3

3 **that you contend earnestly for the faith**

2 Peter 3:18

18 **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**Whatever we do,
We should do it
AS UNTO THE LORD!**

He Made Me Free

Words from a album

music by James Webb & Wesley Tuttle

VERSE 1



I had drifted for so long with my life so full of wrong



That the Lord should've turned his back on me



But He took the trembling hand of a lost and lonely man



He Broke the chains from mortal shame and made me free (He made me free)

VERSE 2



I had sunk so deep in shame ne-ver calling on His name



All the joys of life had turned to mi-ser-y



But then He gave me back con-trol of my lost and wandering soul



Re-moved the fears, and dried my tears and made me free (He Made Me Free)

CHORUS 1



Yes, He took away the sin from my soul where it had been



And He helped my blinding eyes a-gain to see



Oh-yes-and now I un-der-stand the-beau-ty of sal-va-tion's plan



Christ on the cross He paid the cost and made me free. (He Made Me Free)

{ Christ on
the cross }

{ He paid
the cost }

CHORUS 2



Yes, He took away the sin from my soul where it had been



And He gave me back the faith that I might see



Now, I'm so glad I un-der-stand the pro-mise of sal-va-tions plan



Christ on the cross He bore the loss and made me free. (He Made Me Free)

{ Christ on
the cross }

{ He bore
the loss }

**I had drifted for so long.. with my life so full of wrong
That the Lord should-have turned his back on me
But He took the trembling hand.. of a lost and lonely man
He Broke the chains from mortal shame and made me free (He made me free.)**

Yes, He took away the sin.. from my soul where it had been
And He helped my blinding eyes again to see
Oh yes, and now I understand.. the beauty of salvation's plan
Christ on the cross —▼— He paid the cost —▼— and made me free. —▼—
(Christ on the cross) (He paid the cost) (He made me free.)

**I had sunk so deep in shame.. never calling on His name
All the joys of life had turned to misery
But then He gave me back control.. of my lost and wandering soul
Re-moved the fears, and dried my tears and made me free. (He made me free.)**

Yes, He took away the sin that had stained me deep within
And He gave me back the faith that I might see
Now, I'm so glad I understand.. the promise of salvations plan
Christ on the cross —▼— He paid the cost —▼— and made me free. —▼—
(Christ on the cross) (He paid the cost) (He made me free.)

EACH STEP I TAKE

W. E. M.

W. ELMO MERCER

1. Each step I take my Sav-iour goes be-fore me, And with His
2. At times I feel my faith be-gin to wa-ver, When up a -
3. I trust in God, no mat-ter come what may, — For life e -

lov-ing hand — He leads the way. — And with each breath I
head I see — a chas-m wide. — It's then I turn and
ter-nal — is in His hand. — He holds the key that

whis-per "I a-dore Thee;" Oh, what joy to walk with Him each day; —
look up to my Sav-iour, I am strong when He is by my side. —
o-pens up the way, — That will lead me to the prom-ised land. —

CHORUS

Each step I take I know that He will guide me; To high-er

ground He ev-er leads me on. — Un-til some day the last step

will be tak-en, Each step I take just leads me clos-er home. —

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EACH STEP I TAKE

W. Elmo Marcer

EACH STEP I TAKE MY SAVIOUR GOES BEFORE ME
AND WITH HIS LOVING HAND HE LEADS THE WAY
AND WITH EACH BREATH I WHISPER: "I ADORE THEE"
OH WHAT JOY TO WALK WITH HIM EACH DAY

CHORUS:

EACH STEP I TAKE I KNOW THAT HE WILL GUIDE ME
TO HIGHER GROUND HE EVER LEADS ME ON
UNTIL SOMEDAY THE LAST STEP WILL BE TAKEN
EACH STEP I TAKE JUST LEADS ME CLOSER HOME

AT TIME I FEEL MY FAITH BEGIN TO WAVER
WHEN UP AHEAD I SEE A CHASM WIDE
IT'S THEN I TURN AND LOOK UP TO MY SAVIOUR
I AM STRONG WHEN HE IS BY MY SIDE

(CHORUS)

I TRUST IN GOD NO MATTER COME WHAT MAY
FOR LIFE ETERNAL IS IN HIS HAND
HE HOLDS THE KEY THAT OPENS UP THE WAY
THAT WILL LEAD ME TO THE PROMISED LAND

(CHORUS)