



A "REMOTE" Study Submission for the:
Mens Monday Nite
Bible Study Lesson Topic
for: 11.13/20.23

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The Following Study Is Based On:

Acts 17: & 2 Thessalonians 3:

1. Give an Outline of the Above Scriptural Passages For this Lesson.

In Acts 17 and 2 Thessalonians 3, the Apostle Paul addresses challenges to the spread and acceptance of the word of God, which could hinder it from "running swiftly" and being "glorified."

2. What would hinder the word to "run swiftly" and be "glorified" (*then and now*).

In Acts 17, Paul faces opposition in his missionary work. The hindrances to the word of God "running swiftly" come in the form of societal and religious opposition. For instance, in Thessalonica, Paul's preaching about Jesus as the Christ was met with jealousy and hostility from some of the Jews, who formed mobs to create an uproar against Paul and his companions. This led to Paul and Silas being sent away to Berea for their safety. In Athens, Paul encountered skepticism and mockery from philosophers who questioned his teachings about Jesus and the resurrection.

3. What was the main causes of the idleness and disorderly conduct in the church? (*then and now*)

2 Thessalonians 3 deals with a different set of issues. Here, Paul warns against idleness and disorderly behavior among believers, which could discredit the Christian message and community, thus impeding the word of God from being glorified. He instructs the Thessalonians to keep away

from believers who are idle and disruptive and to not grow weary in doing good.

The obstacles that Paul outlines in these passages are both external, such as opposition from non-believers, and internal, such as misconduct among believers. These challenges are not unique to the first-century church but are recurring issues that can affect the spread and reception of religious teachings in any era.

In contemporary terms, the word could be hindered from running swiftly and being glorified by similar issues: cultural and societal opposition, misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the message, internal divisions or scandals within the church, and general apathy or resistance to spiritual or religious messages.

Addressing these challenges often requires a combination of steadfast faith, clear communication, and ethical conduct by those who spread the word. In Acts 17 and 2 Thessalonians 3, the context for idleness and disorderly conduct is somewhat different, as Acts 17 primarily deals with the external opposition Paul faced, while 2 Thessalonians 3 addresses internal community behavior.

In 2 Thessalonians 3, Paul addresses the issue of idleness directly. The main causes for this behavior, as inferred from the text, could include:

1. **Misunderstanding of Eschatology**: Some members of the Thessalonian church believed that the return of Christ was imminent. This belief may have led them to stop their work and daily responsibilities, waiting instead for the end times.
2. **Disruption of Social Norms**: The early Christian community was a radical departure from the surrounding society's norms, and this shift may

have led to confusion about how to live daily life while also being part of a transformative religious movement.

In contemporary terms, causes of idleness and disorderly conduct in a church or religious community could include:

1. **Theological Confusion**: Similar to the Thessalonians, modern believers might have misunderstandings about theological doctrines that lead to inaction or inappropriate behavior.
2. **Cultural Dissonance**: The contrast between a society's values and those taught by the church can lead to conflict about how to engage with the world while maintaining religious integrity.
3. **Economic and Social Issues**: Modern societal issues such as unemployment, poverty, or social displacement can contribute to idleness within a community.
4. **Lack of Engagement**: A lack of meaningful ways to participate in community life or feeling disconnected from the community can lead to apathy and disorderly conduct.
5. **Moral and Ethical Challenges**: Personal or widespread ethical failures within a community can lead to disorder and diminish the community's focus on shared values and goals.

Addressing these challenges, both historically and currently, often involves pastoral care, clear doctrinal teaching, community support, and creating an environment where active engagement in both spiritual and societal life is encouraged.

4. Do we grow weary of doing good?

The question "Do we grow weary of doing good?" reflects a timeless human experience that transcends the specific contexts of Acts 17 and 2 Thessalonians 3.

Paul's exhortation in 2 Thessalonians 3:13, "And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good," suggests that growing weary while doing good is a common enough issue that it needed to be addressed.

Here's a look at the concept in the two contexts:

1. ****In 2 Thessalonians 3****: The concern is with members of the community becoming idle, possibly because they believed the return of Christ was imminent and therefore felt that regular work was pointless. In this sense, Paul is encouraging the community to continue to live productive lives and to do good, even in the face of possible discouragement or the belief that the end of the world was near.

2. ****In Acts 17****: While the text doesn't directly deal with the theme of growing weary in doing good, Paul's persistent ministry despite opposition and hardship illustrates his commitment to doing good without growing weary. He faced physical danger and intense philosophical debate, yet he continued his work of spreading the Christian message.

In both historical and contemporary settings, several factors can contribute to people growing weary of doing good:

- ****Discouragement from Lack of Visible Results****:
- When efforts to do good don't seem to yield immediate or visible results, people can become discouraged.

- ****Opposition or Lack of Support****: Facing continual opposition, as Paul did, or a lack of support from one's community can lead to weariness.
- ****Personal Burnout****: Continuous giving of oneself without adequate personal renewal or self-care can lead to burnout.
- ****Societal Cynicism****: A general sense of cynicism in society can challenge individuals' beliefs about the impact of their good deeds.

The exhortation not to grow weary of doing good remains relevant for people today, as it serves as a reminder of the value of perseverance in doing what is right and beneficial for others, even when it is challenging.

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