

**A PEOPLE SUSTAINED AND STRIVING - 2 Thes 3:3-5**  
**061420P**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The church in Thessalonica - preserved & persevering: diligent dependence.
2. 2 Thes 3:3-5.

**1st: The Place of Supplication - 2:16-3:2**

1. Context: prayer - 2:16-17.
2. 3:1-2 Paul solicits prayer
3. 3:3-5 confident that Lord will answer prayers

**2nd: A People Sustained**

1. *But the Lord is faithful: But* = contrast w/ v2. Faithless & fruitless. Pain of broken promises [Pr 20:6; 25:19]. Lord is faithful - 1Th 5:24. Comfort
2. *He will strengthen you* = 2:16-17. *Strengthen*: support, sustain in context of threats. 2Th 2 re: Apostasy & Antichrist - v9-15. [Eph 3:16].
3. *He will protect you from the evil one*: military: defend from attack. *Evil* => Satan [2Th 2]. Rev: persecution & seduction - Jude 1:24-25
4. *We have confidence [persuaded] in Lord concerning you*. Again, *the Lord is faithful*. *Concerning you*: see Lord's grace in each other.
  - i. Barnabas -> Antioch *witnessed the grace of God* [A 11:23]
  - ii. 2C 5:16-18a - God's chosen nobodies [1C 1:26-28; 2C 12:11].
  - iii. *But God gives life to dead* [R 4:17]; *we are children of God* [1 Jn 3:2]
  - iv. Now, define yourself according to God's grace.

**3rd: A People Striving**

1. 2 Th 3:4b *you are doing & will continue to do*: present & future obedience. Do what? 2:16,17 *good work & word*
2. *what we command* - 1Th 4:1-2; 2 Th 3:6 [1Th 5:14]

**4th: A People Sustained**

1. 2Th 3:5 *May the Lord*: [v1,3,4,5,6]
2. *direct*: lead the way & remove obstacles to reach destiny
3. *your hearts*: 2:17 focuses on heart. Jn Eadie: "Self-led hearts are usually misled hearts." [Pro 4:23; Lk 21:34-36]
4. Lord sustains us AS HS guides & directs our hearts.

**5th: A People Sustained & Striving: into the love of God & the steadfastness of X.**

1. *into the love of God*: God's love for us or our love for God? [1 Jn 4:19; Jn 14:21]. In "last days" - experience being loved & love.
2. *the steadfastness of Christ*: Christ's steadfastness or our Christ-like steadfastness? [Phil 2:5-8; Jn 14:2-3].

**Applic #1: We Are Sustained in Grace AS We Strive by Grace**

1. What does God's sustaining grace look like? 1C 15:10
  - i. inclusio: *the grace of God*. What do we see? "I" 4x & "me" 2x. Paul.
  - ii. See who he is: *I am what I am*. Popeye: feed heart the "spinach" of Word. Descartes: I believe therefore I'm regenerated.
  - iii. *I labored* [Eng: copious]. *Labor* = evidence of grace
2. *I have confidence in the Lord concerning you*
3. 2Th 2:16-17 AMEN