

Wednesday In the Word
Digging Deeper
September 8, 2021
2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
Work=Eat

It is difficult not to think of the current state of our nation and the mindset being generated these days as we consider these closing words of Paul's second letter to the Thessalonian believers. His focus in these verses is the earnest expectation for all of God's people to be either gainfully employed or serving vigorously in the support of others. Many in our culture today are quite content to live off the effort of others or to allow government resources to supply their needs. Shockingly, many of our nation's leaders are all too eager to send folks money to encourage them to stay home. Make no mistake. Some people fully need assistance and the beauty of America has always been to help others when they cannot help themselves. This giving Spirit aligns with God's Word. Proverbs 3:27-8, James 2:15-16, 4:17. But rewarding and supporting laziness and deception are unacceptable. Proverbs 24:30-34, 1 Timothy 5:8. Paul makes this clear in today's passage. It is best here to let the Word of God speak for itself. Let's Dig in to the Greek.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18 KJVS

[6] Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

- Withdraw; stello; properly to set fast ("stall") that is (figuratively) to repress (reflexively abstain from associating with): - avoid, withdraw self.
- Disorderly; ataktōs; morally irregular: - disorderly, out of ranks (often so of soldiers)
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.

[7] For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

[8] Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Acts 18:1-4.

- Travail; mochthos; toil that is (by implication) sadness: - painfulness.
- Chargeable; epibareō; to be heavy upon that is (peculiarly) to be expensive to; figuratively to be severe towards: - be chargeable, to overcharge.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:9

[9] Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

- Power; exousia; (in the sense of ability) privilege that is (subjectively) force, freedom or authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.
- 1 Corinthians 9:1-7

[10] For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

- Work; ergazomai; to toil (as a task or occupation etc.) (by implication) effect, be engaged in or with etc.: - commit, do labor for, minister, trade, work.
- Eat; esthiō; to eat

[11] For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

- Busybodies; periergazomai; to work all around that is bustle about (meddle): - be a busybody. To bustle about uselessly, to busy one's self about trifling, needless, useless matters.
- 1 Timothy 5:13, 1 Peter 4:15

[12] Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

- Ephesians 4:28, 1Thessalonians 4:11-12.

[13] But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. (If Laboring for the Lord weakens you, remember why you labor and draw strength from the Lord)

[14] And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

[15] Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

[16] Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

[17] The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

[18] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

It seems quite clear. If we are able to work, we must. If we cannot work we should seek help. From temporary assistance to education to advancing to the ability to take care of ourselves. Finally to succeeding in such a way so as to help others. If we will not work even when we are able we must not eat! Harsh words? Yes. But Jesus has high expectations for His disciples. The Christian body ought to be one of love, discipline, honor and self sufficiency while using spiritual discernment to help those in need. Meanwhile when some make it clear that they will not comply with such principles we ought to withdraw from them. Encouraging and promoting laziness will only cause it to spread and will give the impression of condoning it. The unsaved world must see an integrity in us both to be successfully self productive while also charitable to those in need. As always Jesus Himself is our role model. John 9:4-5. Now, YOU are in the world. Honor the Light of Jesus in your "well doing"!