

Work, A Curse or a Blessing?

2 Thess 3:6-18



Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread Ministries Logo

Background: Most of us work to earn money so we can eat our daily bread. Is work good or bad? Is it a necessary evil to be endured? Or is it a valuable use of our time? In Thessalonica there were some Christians who had stopped working and were expecting others in the community to supply their daily bread. We'll see how Paul responded to them, and why he chose to work as a tentmaker while engaged in Christian ministry.

Sermon Text: 2 Thess 3:6-18 (NIV)

⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

¹¹We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

¹⁴Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. ¹⁵Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

¹⁷ *I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write.*

¹⁸ *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
- b. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

2. Sermon questions (pick 3)

- a. What good news did you hear from the service Sunday?
- b. “The Christian life is a life of imitation... Be careful who you imitate.” Whose life would you say you are imitating? How has it changed over the years?
- c. “Be careful what model you are setting for others to imitate.” Name specific lifestyle traits you embody which imitate Christ and provide an admirable model for others. Name areas and/or traits you need the Spirit’s help to mold you more into His image.
- d. The Christian life is also a life of discipleship. Who are you discipling? If you cannot name a person, where can you enter into a discipling relationship? (I have found that forcing a discipling relationship is not always helpful, but maybe there is a relationship in your life where you can begin investing more time?)
- e. Work
 - Do you view your secular work as lesser than full-time Christian ministry? Why or why not?
 - When you go to work each day, do you see it as “opportunity or burden?” If burden, what can you do to change your mindset to opportunity? (Options may include beginning each day soaking in scripture or in prayer.)
 - Do you struggle with your identity in regards to work? Why or why not?