

“Working While You Wait”
2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
10/5/25
Message 5

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Working While You Wait”

- **Greatest Commandment**

- **Jesus declared the Christian life could be summarized into 2 commandments**

Luke 10:27 (NKJV)

27 So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

- Love God
 - Love Others
 - This is the heart of the Christian life
 - It should affect our whole person!!!
- **So the Question is HOW do I do them**
 - What does it mean to love God with all of my Heart?
 - How do I love God with my Mind?
 - How do I love God with my Soul?
 - How do I love God with my Strength?
 - Answer
 - HONOR Him in EVERYTHING!!!

- LIVE for HIM
- **One way this is Alos done is at OUR WORK!!!**
 - Do – We love God in our work?
 - Is our work done
 - With all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength?
 - We need to see
 - Everything we do at your Work is a MINISTRY unto God
 - Biblically
 - There is no such thing as a secular job for a Christian
- **Now In Greek Culture They Despised Work**
 - **Manual labor was considered demeaning**
 - Manual labor was for slaves
 - They distained physical labor.
 - **And In The church of Thessalonica**
 - Some would NOT work
 - The excuse they gave
 - Jesus is coming so why work let's just wait for Him
 - As a result,
 - They had to be taken care of and became a burden on the church
- **Now Sadly Even In America some have a BAD view of work**

- The Problem in America –
 - Many have a mind set to play more than work
- Illustration
 - T.G.I.F
 - Even today, walk into a place ask the waiter, waitress, how are, “doing great today’s my Friday...”
 - Or the WEEK COUNT down...
 - Living for the weekend –
 - Missing the moment that they are in
- **We as Christians should NOT have that attitude**
 - We Should have the attitude
 - “I am Blessed with Work”
 - We SHOULD BE different
 - We should have the view of WORK as EVERYTHING we do is UNTO JESUS
 - Now that does not mean we will always like everything we do
 - But honor God by putting Him first at your work
 - “Make it” your ministry because “It Is”
 - That will help you on the rough days or a rough job!!!

• **Work is the subject that Paul closes this book**

- This Morning We Will look at 2 Main Points
 - The Problem They Had vv. 6-15
 - The Promise of Peace vv. 16-18

The Problem They Had vv. 6-15

- **1. But we command you v. 6a**

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (NKJV)

6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

- **1. But we command you**
 - The strength of this statement is plain.
 - A Command
 - But also –
 - IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
 - This is a VERY strong exhortation

- **2. That you withdraw from every brother v. 6b**

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (NKJV)

6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

- **1. That you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly**
 - Withdraw – So Strong
 - Withdraw
 - Greek: ***stéllō***;

- Means: it means to avoid or withdraw oneself from, shrink back
- Disorderly / Unruly
 - Greek: ***atáktōs***
 - Means –
 - “A Soldier Out of Rank”
 - "A military order passed down from a superior officer."
- This is a VERY Strong Exhortation
 - So you have
 - A Command
 - In the Name Of Jesus Christ
 - Now the Directive - Withdraw
- **2. Who are those we are to withdraw from Why are they Disorderly?**
 - Those that
 - Walk not according to the tradition which he received from us.
 - Paul and the apostles gave to them.
 - There is a since in which they KNEW they were speaking for GOD
- **3. Application**
 - The purpose in withdrawing

- It put them out of the church into the “domain” of Satan (the world)
 - In hope that they might miss the fellowship of the church so much they would repent of their disobedience.

• **3. Paul's Example vv. 7-9**

- **1. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us**

2 Thessalonians 3:7–9 (NKJV)

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

▪ **Paul was an excellent example among the Thessalonians**

- Paul Worked for his own Needs
 - So as NOT to be a burden on them

▪ **Please Note**

- Paul had a right as an Apostle to be paid Taken care of
 - Paul would give up that right at certain times
- The Thessalonians should follow Paul in his example
 - If Paul had a right to pay –
 - YET did not take it because he did not want to be a burden –
 - Then those that CAN work and Don't are out of ORDER

- **4. Paul defines by being disorderly in vv.10-15**

- **1. If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat v. 10**

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NKJV)

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

- **WILL Not Work**

- NOT CAN'T Work

- There is a difference

- Now We have

- A Command

- In the Name Of Jesus Christ

- Now the Directive - Withdraw

- Consequences for their actions

- They should not eat! SIMPLE

- So much for Socialism and Communism

- To take from someone who works really hard and give to someone who is not working and can work is WRONG

- **2. For we hear vv. 11-13**

2 Thessalonians 3:11–13 (NKJV)

11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

- **Idleness = Busybodies**

- Some had become a source of sin.
- It was not only because of the work that they didn't do, but also because of the harm they did do with their idle time.

- **Now those who are such we command:**

- With authority, through our Lord Jesus,
- Paul commanded these busybodies to work!

- **Do not grow weary in doing good**

- Then encouragement for those who were working as they should.

- **3. More on how to deal with the disobedient vv. 14-15**

2 Thessalonians 3:14–15 (NKJV)

14 *And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.*

15 *Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.*

- **And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle:**

- Again a since that Paul knew he was writing the Word Of God

- **Note that person and do not keep company with him:**

- That person needs to change! And change now
- So important that you don't even hang with him

- **5. Application**

- **1. Some think it is strange that Paul would spend so much time on this subject**

- The Bible is not a book that is meant to put our HEADS in the clouds
 - It is a Book that is meant to help us walk rightly with our FEET on the ground
 - It gets down to the nitty gritty aspects of life – It deals with life in the real world
 - Home / Church / at play / in the work place
- And being productive is important to the Lord

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- **2. Six Take Aways on Work**

- **1. What the Bible says about work?**

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NKJV)

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

- **1. "Will NOT Work"**

- NOTE Difference "Not Cannot Work"

- There are many reasons a person can't work...

- If one CANNOT work they need our help

- NOW If he WILL NOT work

- He Shouldn't Eat

- Listen to this verse in 1 Tim for those who can work and don't

1 Timothy 5:8 (NKJV)

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- God Sees Work as Critical
 - We too must see it the same way
- The Bible
 - More supports a Capitalist system
 - Everyone has equal opportunity BUT not equal outcome
 - Your outcome should be depended on your efforts NOT government
- Socialism and Communism
 - May sound nice
 - BUT they ARE evil ideology
 - All they will produce is equal failure
- **2. Note: When helping the poor**
 - There are many places in the scripture that talk about helping the poor
 - I know it's always hard to understand what we should do
 - Do we are do we not?
 - Are we enabling them?

- Not everyone that is “poor” and on the streets should be helped

- BE WISE

- Pray
- Let God lead you

- **3. Work Comes from GOD**

- 1. Important that we understand that WORK COMES from God

- God has ordained labor to be a part of man’s life before sin entered the scene!!!

- God gave Adam the job of tending and guarding the Garden (Gen. 2:15).

- Exodus 20:9 "Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

- VERY IMPORTANT

- God commanded us in Scripture to work!!!

- But nowhere in Scripture did He command us to play.

- When a society wants to play more than work, something is wrong with us.

- Don’t mis-understand

- I know the need for REST / we aren’t talking rest we are talking PLAY

- 2. We can't think of work as part of the Curse
 - Sometimes we can think of work as part of the curse
 - NOW sin turned labor into toil...
 - BUT it must never be thought that the necessity for work is a RESULT of sin.

- **4. Why is WORK important to God?**

- **1. Because He WORKS**

- Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
- Genesis 2:2 "By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing..."
- Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." NIV
- John 5:17 Jesus said, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."
- God worked when He created the heavens and the earth, but He didn't stop there!
- He has been working throughout all of history!
- He is still at work even though we may not be aware of some of His work.
- ONE THING IS CLEAR: GOD IS A WORKER AND HE WANTS US TO Be WORKERS!

- 2. He knows what is best for us

Proverbs 10:4–5 (NKJV)

4 He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

- BRINGS
 - Good discipline
 - Fulfillment
- Even the World recognizes the need to work
 - The Romans said, "By doing nothing, men learn to do evil."
 - The Jewish rabbis taught, "He who does not teach his son a trade, teaches him to be a thief."
 - Idle hands and an idle mind make for the Devils workshop.

▪ 2. Follow Paul's Example as a Worker

- **Paul set an example to be followed - 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9**
 - Paul had the right to expect financial support
 - BUT PAUL deliberately gave up this right that he might be an example to the young believers
 - Paul proved himself to be a mature "Christian" leader.
 - There are TIMES when we just need to give up OUR rights!

- For the cause of Christ and for others

- **Application**

- 1. There are TIMES when we just need to give up OUR rights!
 - For the cause of Christ and for others
- 2. Our motivations need to be winning souls and glorifying God

Colossians 3:23–24 (NKJV)

***23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,
24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance;
for you serve the Lord Christ.***

- IT IS THE LORD CHRIST YOU ARE SERVING."

- That was Paul's motivation!!!

- **3. The Problem with Idleness**

- **Those who weren't working became Busybodies**

- Play on words –
 - They were not bodies in motion – people that were busy working
 - But because they were idle they were meddling in everyone else's business
- Illustration
 - Some years ago, many hives of bees were brought from a cold climate to the tropical island of Barbados.

- Right away the bees went to work, gathering honey for the winter which their instinct taught them to expect.
 - The winter didn't come, however, and the bees became lazy.
 - They stopped working.
 - They stopped gathering honey. Instead, they spent their time flying around and stinging people.
 - When people don't work, they sting other people.
 - They get into trouble. They get into all kinds of trouble.
- WORK KEEPS US OUT OF TROUBLE.
 - The person who rows the boat usually doesn't have time to rock it.

Proverbs 14:23 (NKJV)

23 In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.

- The Disorderly needed to get to work or to get out!!!

▪ 4. The Purpose of the Correction - 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 14-15

- The purpose is withdrawing
 - The purpose is withdrawing from these Disorderly is not so much punishment, or abandonment
 - Paul said – he is still a Brother

- Paul's heart was hopefully these guys if they are put out / will miss the fellowship and want to return

▪ **5. A word to those who were faithful in working v. 13**

2 Thessalonians 3:13 (NKJV)

13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

- **Paul adds an encouragement to those who are working...**

- Do not grow weary in doing good!!!
- He also repeats this in...

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

- Keep doing it NO MATTER WHAT

▪ **6. A word to those that overwork**

- Now you might believe
 - My problem is not that I am NOT working
 - My problem is I am working all the time.
 - And this can be true
 - Many are not taking time off they are work all the time
- Critical we REST
 - Realize the Importance of Rest – spiritual renewal
 - Illustration

- One man challenged another to an all-day wood chopping contest. The challenger worked very hard, stopping only for a brief lunch break.
 - The other man had a leisurely lunch and took several breaks during the day.
 - At the end of the day, the challenger was surprised and annoyed to find that the other fellow had chopped substantially more wood than he had.
 - "I don't get it," he said. "Every time I checked, you were taking a rest, yet you chopped more wood than I did."
 - "But you didn't notice," said the winning woodsman, "that I was sharpening my ax when I sat down to rest."
- A certain amount of rest is needed for everyone.
 - It sharpens the ax.
 - It freshens the mind and body.
 - It recharges the battery. It fuels the flame. It energizes the spirit

The Promise of Peace vv. 16-18

• 1. Now may the Lord of peace v. 16

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NKJV)

16 *Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way.
The Lord be with you all.*

- **1. The Peace that Jesus gives is different from the Peace of the World**

- The world's peace is conditioned upon
 - "If" you're healthy
 - "If" you have \$ in the bank
 - Then you can say... "I am at peace."
- The Lord of peace give you peace

John 14:27 (NKJV)

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

- The Lord of Peace offers a peace that surpasses understanding – a peace.
- In-the-midst-of" sickness, financial problems, stress, relational struggles, etc. Peace that surpasses understanding
- Illustration
 - John White explains it "like a light house in a storm":
 - "Winds shriek, waves crash, lightening flickers around it. But inside, the children play while their parents go about their work. They may look out the window to marvel at the powers that rage around them, but they have peace – the peace of knowing that the strength which protects them is stronger than the strength of the storm."

2. The salutation of Paul with my own hand v. 17

2 Thessalonians 3:17 (NKJV)

17 The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

- **Paul himself wrote the final words of the epistle with his own hand.**
 - This was both a personal demonstration of affection, and proof that the letter was authentic (a sign in every epistle).

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

2 Thessalonians 3:18 (NKJV)

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

- **GRACE**
 - Saved By His Grace
 - Sustained By His Grace
 - We will See His Face by His Grace

Closing

- Keep WORKING HARD
- Jesus is COMING SOON

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “**Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.**”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**”*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*