

Your Work Matters

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

Taking it Home:

1. Are you idle, a busybody, a worrywart, or a workaholic? What is God's message for you in 2 Thessalonians?
2. Is there any area of your work where you've been tempted to settle for "good enough" rather than pursuing excellence? What would it look like to work "as unto the Lord" this week?

Prayer Concerns:

The idle church

The cost of idleness

1. It _____ others [6]
2. It _____ those around us [7-9]
3. It invites unnecessary _____ [11-13]
4. It damages our _____ [1 Thess. 4:11-12]

The theology of work

1. Work is God's _____ (Creation)
2. Work is God's _____ to serve others (Vocation)
3. Work opens the door to _____ (Mission)
4. Work _____ (Worship)
5. Work _____ Christ (Witness)

The Work of Christ

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What is your earliest paid job that you can remember?

Digging Deeper:

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

1. How might a misunderstanding of Paul's earlier teaching (1 Thess. 5:1-3) have led to the problem of idleness? What effect did idleness have on the church? What was Paul's response?
2. What does Paul's example teach us about taking responsibility? What happens and who is impacted when we don't?
3. Read Acts 20:35, Romans 12:13, and 1 Timothy 6:18. What is the main theme of these verses? How do they square with what Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 3? How do these passages help us determine when it's right to help?
4. Review the Cost of Idleness section. Where have you seen this play itself out? Why does Paul connect idleness to becoming a busybody? How can Christians lovingly help someone who is capable of working but refuses to do so?
5. What did you learn about the way God views work? How could this help you see your work in a new light? How might this impact you, your family, and those around you?
6. The sermon taught that God blesses us through work so that we can bless others. How have you experienced someone's generosity meeting a need in your life? How might you meet an appropriate need in someone else's life?
7. Read Colossians 3:23-24. What does it look like to "work heartily, as for the Lord" in your current season of life? In what practical ways can your work become an act of worship and a witness for Christ?