



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: November 13, 2022

Passage: 2 Thessalonians 3:6–12

Theme: The Christian Work Ethic

Problem in Thessalonian Church: Some church members refused to work but rather lived off the hard work and generosity of their spiritual siblings ...resulting in them:

- producing disorder in the church (6, 11)
- meddling in other's lives (11b)

We need to follow Paul's counsel to this church concerning the work ethic of believers:

1. As believers, we must display an imitable work ethic (7–9). How?
 - a. Rightly correlate doctrine with living.
 - b. Serve regardless of remuneration.
 - c. Pay willingly a right price.
 - d. Work hard to carry "your own weight."
2. As a church, we must actively confront those refusing to work rather than passively enabling such practice (10).
 - a. Obedience requires loving confrontation rather than passive enablement.
 - b. Generosity should be directed to need rather than advantageous idlers.
3. The idle need to heed Paul's words (12):
 - a. Stop mooching
 - b. Earn your keep: Be self-sufficient and productive
 - c. If unable to work, contribute to the life of the church by serving.

Main Idea: Our work ethic testifies whether Jesus is Lord of our lives.

Application Questions:

- From your own background, what formed your work ethic? What are the key influences on how you view and approach work?
- What stands out to you from Paul's approach to work as described in vv. 7–9?
- How may we as Christians and churches today be taken advantage of regarding what Paul teaches here? Why is that? What can be done to make sure that we obey Paul's teaching while still demonstrating love?
- What can you apply to your life from what Paul says, especially in his command to the idlers in v. 12?

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