

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 6 June 2023



Warning against idleness **2 Thessalonians 3:6-18**

SCRIPTURE

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

DISCUSSION

1. Why in v14 and v15 is Paul taking the issue of idle Christians, SO seriously?
 - How can we also apply that to ourselves and others, faithfully, and with love?
 - Where are we at risk of being so busy, that we become idle, or distracted and preoccupied by the wrong things, or consumers rather than investors, with our spiritual lives?
2. The fact that Paul gave commands was intentionally to remind the church they were warriors, in a battle, that there's still hard and dangerous work to do - the battle rages on. True warriors/true followers are never AWOL (absent without leave) during a battle. Every single person has a job to do and if they don't do it, the army is less effective. We would all agree that being AWOL from a battle we'd been commissioned to fight in would be shameful.
 - Are there areas of our lives where we are AWOL and or overly relying on others to feed us spiritually?
 - Are there areas where we have got a bit lazy and become used to consuming others provisions rather than going to God ourselves regularly and directly?

- Have we, or are we observing others, have become idle in that regard - and if so what does this passage tell us we need to?
3. Life comes at you fast. 12 years after this message the church was heavily persecuted by the Romans.
- As a Christian have you had that 'this just got real' moment?
 - What may we need to be ready for in the days, weeks months and years ahead?
 - Are we preparing diligently as Paul was commanding the Church in Thessalonica to do?
4. Rather than be fearful Pauls benediction helps us see God provision of:
- Peace
 - Presence
 - Proof
 - Provision
- How can we grow in recognising these things and drawing on them consistently?
 - How can worship help us ensure all our work is from the overflow of our hearts?