<u>TEXT SUMMARY</u>

In our text, <u>2 Thessalonians 3:6-12</u>, we see Paul's final

admonition to the believers in Thessalonica. He speaks to the issue of idleness of some in the fellowship.

It is some of the harshest language we see in all of Paul's writings:

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

(2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)

DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. Paul addresses two different groups in our text (v. 6, v. 12).
 - Who are they?
 - What does he say to them?
- 2. Whose example does he cite?
- 3. What penalty does he suggest for idle members of the fellowship?
- 4. What two verbs does Paul use in his admonishment of the idle (v. 12)?
- 5. In whose authority does he admonish them?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. What "right" does Paul refer to in v. 9?
- 2. Two themes that appear in both letters are the Second Coming and warnings against idleness. Interpreters sometimes connect Paul's emphasis on these two themes. What connection could there be between these two topics in these letters:
 - Jesus is coming back.
 - Get back to work.
- 3. This is the second time we've seen Paul urge his people to do things "quietly" (see also 1 Thess 4:9-12). What do you think he means in using that adverb? What does it mean to live or work "quietly"?

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

How do we apply Paul's twice-repeated command on how to treat believers who are disobedient?

- "keep away" from them (v. 6)
- "have nothing to do" with them (v. 14)

Isn't it counterproductive and benighted to "shame" other Christians? If we do what Paul says, aren't we just "shooting our wounded"?