

October 21st – Refusing to Work

“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this; if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.” (2 Thess. 3:10)

There are a variety of opinions when it comes to work. Some people love to work – they can’t wait for the alarm clock to go off so they can punch in and get cracking. Others despise work – it wouldn’t hurt their feelings if they never had to report for duty. I think many people are somewhere in between – they really don’t look forward to work. Rather, it’s something they have to do to pay the bills. It certainly helps if a person enjoys what he does.

It might surprise you to learn that work is as old as the garden of Eden. From the very beginning, the Bible says that “the Lord God took the man (Adam) and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it” (Gen. 2:15). In other words, God designed us to work. Some would have us believe that work was a result of man’s fall into sin, but nothing could be further from the truth. That feeling of satisfaction you get when you do a good job is exactly what God intended.

In today’s verse, Paul was addressing so-called church members who didn’t want to work. He couldn’t be more clear – if they don’t want to work, they don’t get to eat. In other words, God designed us to pull our own weight by earning a living. Of course, some people are disabled or handicapped so they can’t work. It is the church’s responsibility to provide for such people. But if we are able to work, then that’s exactly what God expects us to do. So then, “whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Ecc. 9:10).