

## II THESSALONIANS

### The Consequences and Cure to an Unruly Life II Thessalonians 3:11-13

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In II Thess. 3:11-13 the Apostle Paul states both the consequences and cure to those who stubbornly continue living an unruly, undisciplined, rebellious life, and as a result were acting like busybodies.

*11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.*

*13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.*

- I. In vs. 11 we are given three consequences of living an unruly life, a life that is not according to apostolic tradition (vs. 6), that does not follow apostolic example (vss. 7-8), and a life that ignores apostolic instruction (vs. 10). Consider the three consequences of an unruly life as listed in vs. 11 by answering the questions that follow each section of the verse.

A. *“Leading an undisciplined life.”*

1. What are some of the marks of an *“undisciplined life?”*
2. What are the marks of a disciplined Christian life?
3. How does a Christian grow to be more disciplined?

B. *“Doing no work at all.”*

1. How does *“doing no work at all”* go against our created purpose (see Gen. 1:26, 28; 2:15; 3:17-19)?
2. When someone does *“no work at all,”* how do they become an unnecessary burden to others?
3. What are some of the ways *“doing no work at all”* hinders Christians from giving glory to God?
4. The Bible clearly teaches us to work hard and diligently, but also teaches us to rest (Ex. 20:8-11; Lk. 4:42; Jn. 4:6). How do we find balance between resting and working (Prov. 6:6-11)?

C. *“Acting like busybodies.”*

1. What are some of the common sins that accompany not working and being an idle busybody (see Prov. 24:30-34; I Tim. 5:13)?

2. A person tells you that they have a hard time working because they are tired, sleepy, and low on energy. What questions might you ask to help them diagnose the reason for being so tired?
  3. Someone comes to you convicted that they are living an unruly, undisciplined, idle life of a busybody. They want to change, but don't know where to begin. They have grown up in a home where they were left to themselves, not taught to work, and have entrenched habits of not being diligent, productive workers. How or in what way might you give a person like this practical, prioritized, step by step, biblical counsel?
- II. In the beginning of vs. 12 the Apostle Paul addresses the undisciplined, lazy, busybodies saying, "*we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ.*" Both words "*command*" and "*exhort*" are present active verbs i.e., "we are always commanding and always exhorting." Consider the two remedies the Apostle Paul gives as the cure to an unruly life and answer the questions that follow each verse phrase.
- A. "*Work in a quiet fashion.*"
1. What are some of the areas where Christians need to work, yet not for pay? What kinds of "profit" do believers receive from working without "pay?"
  2. Why does the Apostle Paul add "*in a quiet fashion?*" What would be some examples of not working "*in a quiet fashion?*" Why are we to avoid "noisy" work that draws attention to ourselves?
- B. "*Eat your own bread.*"
1. What does the Apostle Paul mean when he says "*eat your own bread?*"
  2. How should parents train their children to "*eat their own bread?*"
  3. Give some examples in our society and culture where people have figured out a way to not "*eat their own bread.*" Why is this bad (see Prov. 13:4; 20:4; 21:25-26)?
- III. The Apostle Paul in vs. 13 uses the word "*but*" to show a contrast between those who live undisciplined, lazy, busybody lives, and those *who "do not grow weary of doing good,"* who are productive, eat their own bread, and are able to be generous towards others.

- A. Look up and read the texts below and note what they teach you about the value of *“not growing weary in doing good.”*
1. Proverbs 10:4–5 Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, But he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.
  2. Proverbs 12:11 He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, But he who pursues worthless things lacks sense.
  3. Proverbs 12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule, But the slack hand will be put to forced labor.
  4. Proverbs 14:23 In all labor there is profit, But mere talk leads only to poverty.
  5. Proverbs 15:19 The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns, But the path of the upright is a highway.
  6. Proverbs 16:26 A worker’s appetite works for him, For his hunger urges him on.
  7. Proverbs 18:9 He also who is slack in his work Is brother to him who destroys.
  8. Proverbs 19:15 Laziness casts into a deep sleep, And an idle man will suffer hunger.
  9. Proverbs 20:13 Do not love sleep, or you will become poor; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food.
  10. Proverbs 27:18 He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit, And he who cares for his master will be honored.
  11. Proverbs 28:19 He who tills his land will have plenty of food, But he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty.
- B. What are some of the common temptations that entice us to *“grow weary in doing good?”* How do we combat these temptations?
- C. Let’s say a person is older, feeble, and/or of poor health. Is it possible for a person like this to *“not grow weary in doing good?”*

### **Prayer Topics**

- Pray that we would embrace work as a gift from the Lord, whether it be working for someone else or working for other kinds of profit.
- Pray that the work ethic of those at Anchor Bible Church would be an example to the world and a blessing to those within the church.

- Pray for wisdom in how best to exhort and encourage those who have made it their habit to do no work at all.