

II THESSALONIANS

The Preacher's Right and Example

II Thessalonians 3:9

“. . .not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.”

- I. What is the main theme, idea, and application of the near preceding and following contexts of II Thess. 3:6-13?
- II. What is wrong with a believer being *“unruly,”* not following apostolic example, being *“undisciplined,”* living off of others' generosity, not *“laboring,”* not *“working,”* being a *“burden”* to other believers, *“doing no work at all,”* and *“acting like busybodies?”*
- III. What kind of example did the Apostle Paul and his companions set according to:
 - A. Verse 7?
 - B. Verse 8?
 - C. Verse 9?
 - D. Should we too follow the example of Paul and his companions?
- IV. At the end of verse 8 the Apostle Paul explains why he and his companions worked so hard to support themselves, *“so that we would not be a burden to any of you.”* What was the Apostle Paul's normal rule of thumb when planting a church in a new city in regard to being supported by that church and why?
- V. In verse 9 Paul says, *“not because we do not have the right to this. . .”*
 - A. What is *“the right”* the apostle speaks of in verse 9? Do all preachers have this same right? Why is this important for the church to know?
 - B. What is the *“this”* the Apostle Paul is referring to in verse 9? (Hint: What is the nearest thing the Apostle Paul mentioned at the end of verse 8?)
 - C. Finish this sentence using the answers from the previous two questions, *“All preachers have _____ to be a _____ to the church.”* Why does the Lord give them this right and how should local churches respond?
- VI. In the sermon, we expanded upon the doctrine of the preacher's *“right”* to be a *“burden”* to the local church, i.e., to have local church support them financially.

Below are cross references we examined. Turn to each of the references in your Bibles and look for principles to apply that relate to our responsibility to care for faithful preachers.

- A. Luke 10:7-12, *“Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house. 8 “Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; 9 and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ 10 “But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 11 ‘Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ 12 “I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city.”*

Principles to apply from this text concerning the preacher’s “right:”

- B. Acts 28:10 *“They also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied us with all we needed.”*

Principles to apply from this text concerning the preacher’s “right:”

- C. Rom. 15:26-27, *“For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. 27 Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.”*

Principles to apply from this text concerning the preacher’s “right:”

- D. Gal. 6:6, *“The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.”*

Principles to apply from this text concerning the preacher’s “right:”

- E. I Tim. 5:17-18, *“The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”*

Principles to apply from this text concerning the preacher’s “right:”

- F. I Cor. 9:1-14, (Consider principles to apply section by section) *“Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you*

are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. 3 My defense to those who examine me is this:

4 Do we not have a right to eat and drink? 5 Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? 6 Or do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from working? 7 Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

8 I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING." God is not concerned about oxen, is He? 10 Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops.

11 If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? 12 If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? 14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel."

Principles to apply from this text concerning the preacher's "right:"

- VII. In the middle of verse 9, what do we learn about every preacher's responsibility to the church (see also verse 7)?
- A. What is wrong with a preacher not being an example in this way? (See I Tim. 4:6, 10, 13, 15-16; II Tim. 2:15).
 - B. What is a church to do if their preacher is not setting a good example?
 - C. When a preacher doesn't set a good example, as directed by the Word of God, what does his bad example teach the congregation concerning their need to obey God's Word?
 - D. What can a church do to encourage and help their pastor be an example of laboring in the Word of God and prayer?
- VIII. At the end of verse 9, what do we learn was one of the reasons the Apostle Paul and his companions chose not to have the church of Thessalonica support them (See also verse 7)?

Prayer Topics

- Pray for those who preach and teach the Word of God that they would labor to handle accurately the Word of truth.
- Pray that the congregation of Anchor Bible Church would be faithful to pray for and encourage their preachers and teachers to labor in the Word of God and prayer.
- Pray that everyone would realize the importance of being an example, so that others can follow us, as we follow Christ.