

## GOD SAYS

# “WORK”

### 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

James 2:14-26



25 April 2021

### We Live in Dangerous Times

- **Lack of Alertness - Paying Attention to the Watchmen** (Ezekiel 3:16-21; **Hebrews 13:17**; Jeremiah 6:16-17; 22:21; 25:3-4; 26:5; 44:16; 35:15; 2 Chronicles 36:15-16; )
  - Be sober/be watchful/be vigilant (1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8; Ephesians 6:18; Revelation 3:2; 1 Thess 5:6)
  - Walk circumspectly because the days are evil. (Eph 5:14-17)
- **Lack of Complete Surrender** (Matt 16:24-26; John 12:25; Luke 14:33)
- **Prayerlessness** (Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2, 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
  - Prayerlessness for the lost, for the brethren, thanksgiving, temptation, deliverance from evil. (Luke 10:2; Philippians 4:6; Col 2:7; 4:2; 1 Thess 5:18; Matt 6:9-13; 26:41; James 5:16)
  - Non-Corporate Prayer (Acts 2:42; 4:31; Hebrews 10:25)
  - Non-biblical prayer. (Luke 11:1; Matthew 6:9-15; 1 John 5:14-15)
  - Praying without obedience to the Word. (John 15:7; 1 John 3:22)
  - Selfish prayer. (James 4:3)
- **Self-Righteousness** (Romans 10:2-3; Luke 10:29; 16:15)
  - Just like the people who called themselves God's people in the Old Testament, today many who call themselves Christian ignore God's **written** Word and follow the "dictates of their own hearts." (Jeremiah 7:24; 11:8; 13:10; 16:12; 23:17)
- **Wrong Priorities** (**Luke 10:42**; 14:26-33; Matthew 10:37-39)
- **Wrong View of Church** - People - Growing As a Church (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-22; Romans 12:4-5)
- **Not Doers of God's Word** (Ecclesiastes 12:13; Luke 4:4; James 1:22; 1 John 2:3-4; 3:22; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:1-3)
- **"Sayers" vs "Doers"** - "say" in 1 John - 1 John 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, 9, 4:20
- **Jesus Christ: "Sayers" vs "Doers"** - Matt 7:21-29; 12:50; 1 John 2:17

### In the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 3:6)

- Paul uses the word "command" which carries with it the its military meaning of "a military order handed down from a superior officer."
- Paul does not issue this "order" (not a request or suggestion) by his authority but in the name of "his" Commander:
  - **LORD**: owner, master, ruler
  - **JESUS**: His human name. His mediatorship name. (See 1 Tim 2:5)
  - **CHRIST**: God's "Anointed One."
- Paul orders the Thessalonians, as well as us, to separate ourselves from those who are "disorderly" (a soldier out of ranks, a disobedient soldier) who is not following the "tradition" handed down from Paul (the Holy Spirit).
- The "traditions" of Paul are the traditions of the Church, then and now. Traditions is "things handed down". (Jude 3)
- The traditions of men **vs** the traditions of God. See Matthew 15:1-9; Colossians 2:8; Galatians 1:14; 1 Peter 1:18.

### The Christian Work Ethic (2 Thessalonians 3:7-10)

- ① God commands us to work.
    - The fourth commandment (Exodus 20:9) commands us to work for six days and to rest for one. BUT we are "lovers of pleasure" (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
  - ② God sets the example in working. (John 4:34; 5:17, 36; 17:4) God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit continues to work today.
  - ③ Work was given man *before* the fall. (Genesis 2:15; Psalm 104:14, 23)
  - ④ Work is a gift from God. (Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:13; 5:19-20)
  - ⑤ **ALL WORKS** is to be done for the glory of God NOT for man. (1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 6:5-7; Colossians 3:17, 23)
- Jews expected their rabbis to have a trade or profession.
  - Greeks despised manual labor and gave it to slaves.
  - It has been said, "idle hands are the devil's workshop." Perhaps this is why God command us to work six days!
  - The seriousness of **work** in God's eyes:
    - ① He **commands** and **gives** us work to do.
    - ② He commands us to **discipline** those who are not willing to work.
    - ③ He does not expect the Church (His Church) to support those who are not willing to work.

- God did not give the government the responsibility of providing salaries for people who do not work. (Romans 13:1-5)

### Look to the Ant (Proverbs 6:6-11)

- Learn and be wise!
- No boss! His own initiative!
- Common sense: Poverty is the reward for the lazy person.



### Paul's Example (2 Thessalonians 3:7-10)

- (v 10) Literally this verse says, "If anyone is not willing to work, he shall not eat."
  - This DOES NOT speak to those who are NOT ABLE to work, but to
  - Those who WILL NOT work.
- Paul uses himself as an example for others to follow:
  - He had the RIGHT to expect the Church to supply for his needs. (1 Cor. 9:3-14)
  - **BUT** he chose NOT to be a burden and worked HARD night and day to provide for his own food and shelter. (v. 8)
- Paul taught, as directed by the Holy Spirit, that anyone who was not willing to work was not to eat! (Consider Proverbs 16:26)
- We are also taught that those who do not provide for themselves and their family are worse than **unbelievers**. (1 Timothy 5:8)

### Fruit of IDLENESS (2 Thessalonians 3:11)

- There were some in the Church of Thessalonika who were NOT WORKING and being "busybodies"!
- Those who were NOT BUSY were busy interfering in other people's lives. (See also 1 Timothy 5:13; 1 Peter 4:15)
- Wisdom and Laziness:
  - (Proverbs 13:4) **Contrasting the lazy person and the diligent person.**
  - (Proverbs 20:4) The wise man uses this time wisely.
  - (Proverbs 26:13) The lazy man finds excuses for not working.
  - (Proverbs 26:16) The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men with a sensible answer.

- (Proverbs 24:30) Learn from the lazy person:
  - A lazy person is devoid of understanding.
  - His field was overgrown with thorns and nettles and the wall was broken down.
  - Poverty comes to those who are lazy.

### Exhortation to True Believers (2 Thessalonians 3:12-13)

- Christians ought to be the best, hardest, most trusted workers in the world.
- Their motivation is to please their LORD. (1 Cor. 10:31; Colossians 3:17, 23)
- We are never to grow weary in doing good. (1 Cor. 15:58; Galatians 6:9-10; Revelation 2:3)

### Have No Fellowship with Lazy Brothers (vv. 14-15)

- God instructs us to take LAZINESS serious.
- Believers are not to have company with LAZY brothers. "Bad company corrupts!" (1 Corinthians 15:33)

### "Yes, I Believe" or "No, I Do Not Care"

- ① 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christendom is deceived in what a Christians truly is and it continues to make "disciples" after itself rather than disciples of Christ.
- ② God has given His Church "watchmen" - pastors to warn His people of the dangers of the times. He has done this in the Old and New Testaments. BUT in both testaments, people of ignored, mocked and despised their God given "watchmen" and have established their own righteousness.
- ③ Christ **and** His Church are the top priority in the life of a true disciple of Christ.
- ④ Biblical prayer, corporate and individual, is commanded and absolutely necessary for the true disciple of Jesus Christ.
- ⑤ Work is a part of life. God commands all to work. It is God's will that His people work.
- ⑥ Laziness is sin and the Church is to take it seriously.