

A BIBLICAL VIEW OF WORK
--2nd THESSALONIANS 3:6-15--

INTRODUCTION:

The majority of 2 Thessalonians 3 is taken up by another issue in the church that Paul must address before closing this letter. Some of the Thessalonian Christians did not have a biblical view of work. They were causing strife in the church by refusing to work and mooching off the rest of the congregation. Paul had already spoken to this issue just briefly in his previous letter, but what he had written had not been obeyed and so now he speaks to it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul's desire is that those sinning would repent and get working. He begins by speaking of the treatment of the unruly, then he commands the undisciplined to work, and finally he gives the discipline that is to be used for the disobedient.

- I. TREATMENT OF THE UNRULY (2nd Thessalonians 3:6-10)
- a. There were some in the church in Thessalonica who, in refusing to _____, were disregarding Paul's instruction.
 - b. In the context of Matthew 18 where Jesus is speaking of discipline, this is the _____ step in the process of church discipline.
 - c. Paul refers to those refusing to work as those who lead an "_____ life."
 - d. Paul then reminds the Thessalonian believers of the _____ that himself, Silas, and Timothy left them to follow. (Acts 17:7)
 - e. Paul went on to inform the Thessalonians that the reason he and his companions worked was not because they did not have a right to receive support for their work of preaching and teaching, but to be a _____ for them to follow. (Galatians 6:6; 1st Timothy 5:17; 1st Corinthians 9:14)
 - f. Paul added a _____ to back up the example that he had given the Thessalonians.

II. COMMANDS FOR THE UNDISCIPLINED (2nd Thess. 3:11-13)

- a. Paul writes that word has come to him that some in the Thessalonica church were living _____ lives.
- b. Paul now gives a direct _____ to those who are leading undisciplined lives.
- c. Paul went on to _____ the rest of the brethren who were faithfully following Paul's example and teaching. (Acts 20:35)

III. DISCIPLINE FOR THE DISOBEDIENT (2nd Thess. 3:14-15)

- a. Paul was ready to put this _____ to rest, he had dealt with it three times now.
- b. He writes, "*If anyone does not _____ our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.*" (2 Thessalonians 3:14, NASB95)
- c. Paul writes that this isolation will put him to _____.
- d. Since this is only the third step of church discipline, the faithful members in the church are not to regard the one being disciplined as an _____.
- e. Paul adds this reminder to bring _____ to the discipline process. (Galatians 6:1)

CONCLUSION:

Paul in this passage shows that even though our culture's work ethic is almost nonexistent, the biblical work ethic remains constant. We need to be teaching our children and our grandchildren the biblical view of work. We do not want the issue that the church in Thessalonica faced. We ourselves who are able to work must uphold the biblical view of work and in so doing honor and glorify God. When believers diligently pursue the vocation to which God has called them, God is honored no matter what that vocation may be. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 6:1, "*All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.*" (1 Timothy 6:1, NASB95) The same could be said for employees and employers.