

The Christian Work Ethic

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." ¹¹We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. ¹³And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.

¹⁴If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. ¹⁵Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. ¹⁷I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write. ¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

A Christian's Work

"Who you work for is more important than what you do. The world will tell you otherwise. The world will tell you that life finds its meaning in success at work, or that work is just a necessary evil on the path to leisure. All those ways of thinking are lies. You do work for someone beyond your boss. You work for Jesus. . . . We are freed completely from thinking that our work is without meaning and purpose, and we are equally freed from thinking our work hold some ultimate meaning. Even more, we discover anew the connection between our jobs and our primary identify as disciples of Jesus. We stop disengaging from our role as disciples from nine to five each day. On the contrary, our engagement with our jobs becomes one of the primary ways we express our discipleship to and love for our Lord."

Traeger and Gilbert, *The Gospel at Work*, pp. 14-15

Resources: *The Gospel at Work* by Traeger and Gilbert; *The Rest of Success* by Haack; "Christian View of Work" (Sermon in our "Foundations in Genesis" series—Fall 2018).

A Church's Love

Christ's Peace and Presence

[Crosses]

Questions to Consider as You Respond to the Word of God Preached

1. What general rule does this passage teach about work (v. 10)? Why is work so important to God? Why do you work? (Col. 3:23-24). What wrong views of work do you need to stop believing?
2. Why is church discipline (accountability) in the Christian life really more about love than judgment?

Questions to Ask a Friend After the Worship Service (while maintaining social distancing!)

1. How did God's Word challenge or speak to you today?
2. How can I pray for you this week?

Next Week: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 (e-mail the elders any questions you may have about our sermons)