

THE CHURCH IN THE LAST DAYS

WORKIN' FOR A LIVIN'

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 Jeff Schreve

Now we learn that some of you just loaf around and won't do any work, except the work of a busybody. 2 Thessalonians 3:11 CEV

What does God have to say about the subject of work?

1. God wants us to work.

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 12

A. Work is not a suggestion; it is a command.

Six days shall you labor and do all your work Exodus 20:9

... make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you; so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

B. Work is not a bad thing; it is a good thing.

*My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.
John 5:17*

*Enjoy life with the wife you love. Enjoy every day of your short life. God has given you this short life on earth—and it is all you have. So enjoy the work you have to do in this life. Every time you find work to do, do it the best you can.
Ecclesiastes 9:9-10 ERV*

C. Work is what keeps us from trouble.

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example. 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

2. God has sobering words for those who won't work.

For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11

A. Those who won't work are disobeying God.

B. Those who won't work are displeasing God.

*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.
1 Timothy 5:8*

C. Those who won't work are disciplined by God.

For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:11

3. God tells us how to respond to those who won't work.

But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good. And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame.

And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. 2 Thessalonians 3:13-15

A. We are not to quit doing what is right.

B. We are not to associate with those who won't work.

C. We are not to enable those who won't work.

D. We are to help bring workless Christians back to the Lord.

How are you doing with this important thing called work?