

sermon notes

August 21, 2022 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship
Kingdom Come | “Dealing with Idlers” | 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

Why should the Church not Tolerate Idleness?

1. Idleness leads to _____ (3:6)
2. Idleness makes you a _____ to others (3:7-10)
3. Idleness causes _____ (3:11-12)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12. Summarize Paul’s instructions to idle people in the church. What does it mean to be idle? What does it mean to be a busybody? Why was it important to Paul that everyone work quietly and earn their own living (3:12)?

Read the following Proverbs on diligence and hard work (Prov 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 12:11,24,27; 13:4; 19:15; 20:13; 21:25-26; 24:30-34; 26:13-16; 31:27). What are some themes in these Proverbs? What does Jesus teach about hard work in Matthew 25:14-30? What are some things that keep people from working hard? As Christians, why should we work hard at the office, at home, and at church?

GET PERSONAL

Is work a curse? Why or why not? Do you sometimes view your work as a curse (or as cursed)? What’s right and what’s wrong with that attitude? Explain how Colossians 3:23 relates to your daily tasks.

Is it possible to be so busy with life that we are spiritually idle? How do we get to that point? How do you guard yourself and your family against excessive busyness that leads to spiritual idleness?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Why did Paul work so hard not to be a burden to the church (3:7-10)? Should the church be active in the area of benevolence? If so, how? How has the church historically been active in charitable and benevolent causes?

Does Paul’s command in 3:6 seem excessively harsh to you (“keep away from a brother who is walking in idleness”)? Should we shun those in the church who are “walking in idleness”? If so, what does that look like? How can loving confrontation of sin make the church stronger?

ADVANCED QUESTION

What significance does 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 have for the gospel (i.e., what does it have to do with Christ dying for our sins)? Doesn’t this passage sound like works-based salvation? If not, why not?