

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

In this passage, Paul has some strong words for people who won't work. In verse six he says they aren't living according to the teaching of the apostles/Bible. What is the teaching of the Bible on this? (Look at 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 4:14, Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15, Ecclesiastes 2:24, Exodus 20:8-11).

Why should we work? What kinds of work are worthwhile? Does that mean everyone needs to have a paying job? What other kinds of work are there?

What specifically was going on in Thessalonica according to v 11-12? Are there legitimate reasons to not be working? How are they different from what was happening in Thessalonica?

These idle and disruptive people were commanded to settle down and work to earn a living (v 12), what are the rest of the Thessalonians commanded to do (v 13)? What does that mean?

How do we make sure we continue to do what is right in relation to those who are in legitimate need (not just being idle and disruptive)?

How does the gospel help us to be generous and loving to those who are in need? What don't we understand about ourselves if we are unwilling to be generous and loving?

According to verses 14-15, how should we relate to Christians who will not obey God's command to work? What is this talking about?

This idea of church discipline is introduced by Jesus in Matthew 18:15-20. It sounds harsh, but how is it to be practiced, according to 2 Thessalonians 3:15?

What is the purpose of treating people like this? What does Matthew 18:7-9 say about sin?

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18 again. How does the peace and grace of Jesus motivate us to love those in need enough to help them and love those in sin enough to discipline them?

Spend some time praying together. Thank God for the gift of work. Ask Him for help to be diligent to work for His glory in whatever you do. Ask Him to help you love others enough to do the hard work of helping and disciplining.