

Lessons From II Thessalonians

Idleness Leads To Busybodies

(II Th 3:6-15)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From II Thessalonians.”
 - a. Two weeks ago we looked at “Pray For Us As We Pray For You.”
 - i. **II Th 3:1-5** “Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, 2 and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. 4 And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. 5 May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at “Idleness Leads To Busybodies.”
 - i. **II Th 3:6, 11** “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us... 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.” (NKJV)
3. Paul having just asked for prayers and made known his prayer for the brethren in Thessalonica switches gears.
 - a. The text says, “Now we command you...” (6).
 - i. This switching of gears was not a “suggestion” it was a command.
 - b. Paul command them to “...keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us” (**II Th 3:6**).
 - i. “withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.” (NKJV)
4. It is within this framework that we will examine our text this day.

I. The Christian Work Ethic

- A. Paul explained what proper work ethic was to the Thessalonians
 1. He used his, Silas, and Timothy’s work ethic.
 - i. They were not idle or disorderly.
 - a. The Greek word here for idle/disorderly is a military word and as an adverb means “disorderly, with slackness” such as “soldiers not keeping rank.” (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
 - b. Thus their work ethic was active not sluggish in any way.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- ii. They were willing to make a living.
 - a. The term “eat bread” is a common biblical term for “obtaining a living.”
 - i. **Gn 3:19** “By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
 - ii. **Am 7:12** “And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there”
 - b. Thus their work ethic was such that it allow them to borrow from non and make a living of their own.
2. Why had Paul, Silas, and Timothy waived their right to receive support from the church there in Thessalonica?
 - i. First because they did not want to be a burden on the new congregation.
 - a. This congregation is at best a year old and for sure not two years old.
 - ii. Second because they wanted to be an example for these young Christians as it appears they struggle with this.
 - a. **I Th 4:11** “and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you”
 - b. **I Th 5:14** “And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.”
- B. Christian work ethic today
 1. Just like in Paul’s day Christians ought to be the hardest working people around.
 - i. **Co 3:23** “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men”
 - ii. **I Ti 5:8** “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
 - iii. **Ec 9:10** “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might...”
- C. Thus...
 1. Let it be said of us that our work ethic is noticed and God is glorified.

II. The Christian Spiritual Ethic

- A. Paul also explained what proper spiritual ethic was to the Thessalonians
 1. First he told them to “withdraw” or “keep away” from those that sin in such way.
 - i. “This bold statement of Paul is set forth in the context of one of the often forgotten commands – Church Discipline.” (Notes on II Thessalonians by WVBS pg. 13)
 2. Second he told them they were not to be supported in their idleness.
 - i. Paul commanded...
 - a. “...If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat” (10).

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- B. Christians today should adhere to these “commands”
1. First we should have a better understanding of what constitutes the need for “withdrawing.”
 - i. The Scripture is replete with passages on this topic.
 - i. **Acts 5** Ananias & Sapphira
 - ii. **I Corinthians 5** The man who had his father’s wife
 - iii. **Romans 16:17-18** The ones causing division
 - iv. **Matthew 18:15-20** The one that sins against you
 2. Second we should have a better understanding of what “withdrawing” or “disfellowship” truly is.
 - i. There thing that must always be kept in mind is that though there is an issue with unrepentant sin we do what Paul wrote and...
 - i. “...not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.”
(15)

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren as Christians we ought to have the absolute best work ethic and spiritual ethic there is.
 - a. At no time should there be any question of that.
2. Question: Is your work ethic and spiritual ethic above par?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**