

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Work
2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

Last time...hope

The Lord is faithful

Our hope is in the Lord Who is faithful

In a world gone mad where deception and confusion reign, where evil men and seducers
wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived and preparing the world for a
counterfeit savior...

In a nation that seems to be dying right in front of our eyes...

we, the Body of Christ, have hope; and we alone have hope

Our message to the hopeless in the world and in this nation is the Gospel (1 Cor 15:3-4):

Be reconciled to God!

Christ in you, the hope of glory

This time...work

In the appointed number of days we are given between right now and when we meet
Jesus Christ face-to-face...work!

We will finish 2 Thes 3

v6-7 withdraw...walks disorderly...follow us:

In this 2nd letter, Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, has:

1. provided clarity to the persecution and tribulations being suffered by the fellowship at Thessalonica
 - NOT the Day of the Lord but rather the “fact of Life” that the righteous suffer at the hands of the wicked
 - NOT evidence that they missed the Rapture but rather evidence that they are kingdom-worthy and Rapture-worthy
2. reminded them of things that must happen before the Day of the Lord
 - in the worldly Church – apostasy, a falling away from the faith of Christ
 - in the faithful, spiritual Church – restrain evil in the world until raptured...and then and only then...
 - in the world – revelation of a counterfeit christ and a strong delusion for those who worship him
3. encouraged them in the hope that is in Jesus Christ alone

Now, Paul instructs them what they are to do

- while cheerfully enduring the suffering in the world
- while restraining evil in the world
- as they follow Jesus
- shine the Light in the darkness as the King's ambassadors and witnesses

Work!

An offensive 4-letter word to a great many in today's society

Paul is commanding..."transmitting a message" as the apostle and ambassador of the King of kings...that

the faithful disciples of Jesus withdraw themselves from..."avoid" every brother...not every unbeliever but every believer...that walks disorderly...lives a life

- contrary to the God of order
- not according to the Lord's teachings received thru Paul
- not as Paul lived among them...an example of an orderly life to be mimicked/imitated

The faithful are instructed to avoid some things in this world and in the Church

Prov 4:14-15 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil *men*. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away

1 Cor 7:2 avoid fornication

Titus 3:9 avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain

1 Cor 5:9-13 in the house of the Lord

2 Thes 3:6 the disorderly in the fellowship

because

- a little leaven leavens the whole lump
- evil communications corrupt good manners...
worthless companionship corrupts good habits
- God is not the author of confusion but of order

Paul goes on to explain his orderly living among them

v8-9 nought but wrought: orderly:

Orderly = not for nought but wrought...not a freeloader but a hard worker

Paul did not mooch off the Thessalonians, he was not a burden to them

He did not eat their food freely, without charge, without giving an equal or greater return value

Rather, he worked

- labor...hard work
 - serving others...tent maker
 - serving the Lord...apostle, ambassador
- travail...sadness, pain and sorrow
- night and day...24/7

in order to

- not be a burden to those to whom he was preaching/teaching
- not stumble the baby Christians in the faith
- be an example worthy of imitation (1 Peter 5:1-4)

even though he could have, being well within his “right” to

- Luke 10:2-9
- 1 Cor 9:9-23

Now Paul goes on to explain what is meant by “walking disorderly”

v10-11 not work...busybodies:

Disorderly = not working, being a busybody

Paul perhaps noticing this problem when he was among them for those

3 Sabbaths, has taught them this already; this is not a new teaching

There were those in the fellowship who were not willing to work but were instead meddling in other people’s business

Rather than productively working, they are disruptive and destructive

- gossiping
- back biting
- criticizing rather than encouraging and helping
- condemning rather admonishing and being part of a solution
- “This needs to be done” without lifting a finger to do anything

The issue is

- not those that were unable to work
- not those who were willing to work but unable to find work, even with great diligence and effort
- those able-bodied for whom work was available but they were unwilling to work

The message of the Kok transmitted by His servant at that time:
Let the disorderly...able but not willing to work...not eat
Let the lazy eat the fruit of their labor...nothing

Be orderly – work and mind your own business!

Is this cold-hearted and hateful?

No, it is loving and correction in righteousness
The message of correction in righteousness to a brother,
to someone in the family of God

Does the message apply to those outside the family of God, to all people?
Can this message be used to invite someone in the darkness to come to the Light?

Is giving a few bucks to a panhandler at a street intersection or at a
freeway off ramp helping or hurting that person?

Many, many, many times, it is hurting...i.e. not helpful
Because the money goes not for food but for alcohol or drugs
Because it is their “job”, and live well doing it

In these days our nation there are great shortages

- of many commodities
- of willing workers

“Now Hiring” signs are posted in many businesses

The women met on Thursday at Kneaders on Ray Rd
The dining room was closed because they did not have enough workers
because they cannot find people willing to work

[Kneaders jobs]

Looking on Indeed for the Kneaders Ahwatukee store:
13 jobs available
The lowest paying of which is up to \$13/hour

ZipRecruiter lists 127 jobs available in Ahwatukee...
and 1000x that in Chandler (127,000+)!

Why is there a shortage of workers?

Able-bodied people are not willing to work, preferring to draw
unemployment checks from a socialist Gov't
i.e. live off able-bodies, tax-paying workers

Because the society is disorderly, not genuinely compassionate

Order comes by obeying the God of order

When God created Adam He loved him and gave him...a job

- serving Him
- serving others, his family

A job is a blessing from the loving God

What can we do in this situation with panhandlers in abundance and so many businesses looking for workers?

How about this:

Go to those businesses/websites and print off a number of job applications/postings

When you visit a store/business, ask if they are hiring and take a few applications

When encounter a panhandler looking for a hand-out, extend a helping hand by

- giving him/her a job application and a Gospel tract
- simply, lovingly encouraging them to walk down the street and ask if they are hiring
(chances are very high that they are!)

Is that uncaring and harsh?

No, it's loving

In addition, what does every teenager need?

A job!

To learn the value of work and the value of a dollar earned

What wonderful gift can every parent give every child?

A strong work ethic

From the book of "hard-learned wisdom"...

Eccl 2:24 *There is* nothing better for a man, *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it *was* from the hand of God.

Eccl 3:13 every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it *is* the gift of God

Eccl 5:12a The sleep of a labouring man *is* sweet, whether he eat little or much

Eccl 5:18 Behold *that* which I have seen: *it is* good and comely *for one* to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it *is* his portion.

Might a job...and an understanding of Who gave it to him/her and why...

- turn that panhandler's life around?
- teach a teenager valuable life lessons?

Isn't that what the Lord wants?

v12-13 command and exhort...with quietness they work:

The distinction made between orderly and disorderly, what is the message of the Kok being transmitted thru the Apostle Paul?

To the disorderly:

- Surrender your will to the will of God – serve Him and others vs Self
- Be orderly
- Take care of your own business
- Carry your own weight...and some of those who are not able
- Depend on the Lord vs others
- Work...get off your hands, get off your couch and get to work
- Eat fruit of your own labor rather than mooching off the fruit of someone else's labor
- Be a giver and not a taker

Note: Is being retired “disorderly”?

Can one be retired from Corporate America and still be busy serving the Lord and serving others?

Is being retired and serving only Self “disorderly”?

To the orderly:

- Gal 6:9-10 “good” as defined by God, not man
- Do not faint in your faithful obedience to the Lord Who purchased you with His blood
- Be steadfast in living orderly lives pleasing to your Father in heaven
- Look up – your Father is smiling at you!

And to those disorderly who will not heed the command of the King...

v14-15 obey not...note...no company...brother:

Regarding those able-bodied brethren who choose to

- not obey the Lord
- not serve the Lord and others but to serve Self
- continue to be disorderly...not working and being busybodies

the fellowship is instructed to

- note them – “mark” them, “avoid” them...not have fellowship with them, leaving them in the Lord’s hands that they might be convicted and ashamed of their selfishness leavening the lump
 - Luke 10:16 *He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.*
 - Rom 16:17-18a mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ.
- lovingly reprove/correct them as a brother, not as an adversary/enemy of the cross

v16-18 peace...grace:

How did this letter start?

Grace and peace (Ch 1:2)

How does the letter end?

Peace and grace

Peace is not possible without grace

Grace gets the last word

2 Peter 3:18

Application/Lessons

We need keep God's perspective on a number of things

1. Work

The Father sent His Son to earth to do a work

The Son was a carpenter for decades, working diligently every day

The Son was the Servant of God, working night and day as the minister of reconciliation, busy about the Father's business as mankind's Kinsman-Redeemer

Luke 2:49 asking and answering questions in His Father's house

Luke 19:10 seeking and saving the lost

To work is to follow Jesus and to love the Lord our God

To work is to give to others, to love our neighbor as ourselves

Note: To work is far more than just earning money

e.g. a stay-at-home mother

Any worker give more, love more than her?

To not work is to take from others, to love Self before God and others

God rewards hard work

Prov 12:11

Prov 14:23

Prov 20:13

Prov 22:29

God has a very dim view of laziness

Prov 6:6-9

Prov 10:4-5

Prov 13:4

Prov 19:15

Prov 20:4

Prov 21:25

Work in the world's workplace: When is a worker "off the clock"?

When he/she punches out

Work in the kingdom of God: When is a minister of reconciliation "off the clock"?

When he/she punches out...2 Cor 5:7-8

Physical work and spiritual work are linked

Eph 6:6-9

Both employees and employers are witnesses of Jesus Christ to each other

2 Cor 13:5?

Luke 10:38-42

Sit and eat...then go and work!

Col 3:23-24 whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the
inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know
that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Cor 9:24-27

2 Tim 4:5-8

2. The State

The State...Fed Gov't of this nation...is embracing socialism

“From cradle to grave, the State will take care of you.”

Welfare State

Dependence on the corrupt Govt rather than on the Creator God

Socialism kills work ethic

Socialism kills the economy

Socialism kills God's rightful place in society

The Living God is NOT a socialist!

The State is disorderly...anti-God

v12...the Kok and His ambassador did not advocate insurrection against the State

(Roman Empire) but against the kingdom of darkness

(Matt 16:18, 2 Tim 2:22-26)

The Gov'ts belong to the King (Dan 4:17, 25)

3. The Church

Within

The Church is like Noah's Ark - were it not for the storm outside, one could not tolerate the stench inside;
cleaning up after messy sheep (Baaa!) is never-ending
Grace must always be the last word

Gal 6:2

Without

The Church is God's touch-point of caring for the needy and those opposing themselves
The Church is to be salt...affecting the world
The Church is NOT to be affected by the world

What are we going to do?

Gal 6:10

The Gospel in our spheres of influence

See a need – help

A fruitful hand-out is a helping hand held that leads to change

Pray...and bring forward inspirations

SWM

The Church AND the world need Jesus Christ!!!!