



2 Thessalonians 3:6-12  
The Doctrine of Work  
From Sermon 7.17.22

Read *2 Thessalonians 3:6-12*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: As we return to Paul's final words to this baby church, we find the text to be a review. So important was/is the structure of a healthy, effective church that the Spirit has this topic in the beginning and the end of the letters. Holy conduct is critical for Christians in all times—but especially when entering dark days and trial. This issue of money, the offering, benevolence, and abuse will always be a potential for division and judgment. A wise church will have biblical policy and practice.

1. What two key words are repeated 3 times each in the passage? Unruly (idle/disorderly) & work.
2. What is the current work ethic in our culture and country? In a massive decline. Most jobs are "below" people, and they always want more compensation than the job justifies. Why is this not a surprise? God is a god of order, work, and authority. As the culture rejects God, they reject godly values.  
See also *2 Timothy 3:1-4*
3. The Scripture clearly warns against and forbids idleness, laziness, and abuse of charity. According to *1 Timothy 5:11-13*, what else does this first sin lead to? Roaming house to house (or even moving church to church), neglecting their own issues and home, mooching/freeloading, gossip, busybodies (in other people's lives, business, drama), and evil speech.
4. Agree or Disagree: The use of the church offering and finances is a major topic and debate? Historically, who has abused the use of church funds? Both the clergy and the laity.  
What is your experience and opinion of paying pastors/elders/teachers? Various Personal Answers.  
Read *1 Corinthians 9:14*, *1 Timothy 5:17-18*, & *Galatians 6:6*.  
What is too little? What is excessive? Various personal views and answers.
- 4a. How does pastoral abuse of church finances damage the mission of the church? Kills witness  
Examples: Roman Catholic opulence = Reformation. Recent swindler pastors & ministries.  
How does member abuse of church benevolence damage the fellowship? Jaded, bitter, loss of love.  
Examples: various observations
5. How come Paul did not accept a salary or compensation for his ministry of starting the Thessalonian church? To Model hard work and labor. Not be a burden on baby Christians facing persecution.  
[Note: He did instruct them to pay their *future* installed elders]
6. Besides refusing aid to non-workers, what else is the church obligated to do? If persistent and unrepentant = church discipline process, up to remove from the fellowship, disassociate in community, warn, pray for, and seek to restore them.