Slide 1 Let’s open our Bibles to 2 Thes chapter 3.

You’ve Got to Work Hard

2 Thes 3:6-18

Slide 2 I will read verses 6-9 in chapter 3 and then pray for us.

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. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. 2 Thes 3:6-9

Slide 3 Paul is so ingenious in the way he writes. He has started this let letter by commending the saints in Thessalonica on there love and faith. Then he has taken us to the center of the end times and then concludes the letter in a practical correction Christian living.

* We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 2 Thes 1:3
* These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 1 Thes 1:9
* The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 2 Thes 2:9
* For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 2 Thes 3:11

Slide 4 Paul’s emphasis at the end of this epistle is that Christian’s need to work. We worship a God who works and has designed life to be lived with working.

We Worship a God Who Works

* In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:1
* Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. Gen 2:15
* “Cursed is the ground for your sake;  
  In toil you shall eat of it  
  All the days of your life. Gen 3:17b
* Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; Ecc 9:10a

Exodus 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

Slide 5 As we start in verse 6 we see that Paul delivers a command to the Thessalonian Saint’s.

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. 2 Thes 3:6 We do see that Paul invokes the name of the one who gave him the command.

* “For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. “And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.” John 12:49,50
* “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. John 15:14

Slide 6 In verses 7 and 8 Paul reminds them how he behaved amongst them and the example he set.

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. 2 Thes 3:7-8

Slide 7 Paul was a tentmaker by trade and when he was with the Thessalonians he worked when he wasn’t teaching and preaching. We see this was his custom.

* So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. Acts 18:3
* “Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” Acts 20:34,35

Slide 8 We do see in verse 9 of our passage that Paul had authority to not work and receive his provisions from the church but he was compelled not to diminish the preaching of the gospel by asking for anything.

not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. 2 Thes 3:9

Paul in later letters does show us that ministers of the Gospel do have permission to receive compensation for their labor.

* Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. 1 Cor 9:6-9

Slide 9 Continue reading 1 Cor 9.

* Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. 1 Cor 9:10-14
* Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. 1 Tim 5:17

Slide 10 In verses 10 and 11 Paul reminds them that those who are in the church should be working and not be disorderly and slack, taking advantage of the church.

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 2 Thes 3:10,11

First Paul reminds them that they’ve heard this before. In word and in letter.

* that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, 1 Thes 4:11

I’ve experienced this a lot in my previous ministry. It’s interesting to me how those who are looking to take advantage of Christians know these verses by memory.

* “Give to everyone who asks of you. Luke 6:30a
* “Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. Matt 5:42
* He who gives to the poor will not lack,  
  But he who hides his eyes will have many curses. Prov 28:27

Slide 11 Once again in verse 12 Paul commands and encourages that Christians should work.

Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. v12

* The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;  
   But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. Prov 13:4
* How long will you slumber, O sluggard?

When will you rise from your sleep?

A little sleep, a little slumber,

A little folding of the hands to sleep—

So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,

And your need like an armed man. Prov 6:9-11

Slide 12 Paul in verse 13 gives us this strong encouragement especially when we think our works aren’t being seen or we are being disenfranchised or taken advantage of.

But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. v13

* For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Heb 6:10-12

Slide 13 We are then instructed on verses 14 and 15 how we should respond to those who are obstinate and won’t obey the command of God.

And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. 2 Thes 3:14,15

* 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. 2 Thes 3:6
* deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 1 Cor 5:5
* “And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Matt 18:17

Slide 14 Paul switches gears quickly and brings the letter in for a landing in verse 16.

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all. v16 This wonderful idea of the Lord of peace, Jesus, being with us is so comforting. Spurgeon put it this way.

 ”Peace because sin is forgiven, is the sweet fruit of justification— ‘therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God.’ Peace because the heart is renewed and made to agree with the will of God is the blessed result of sanctification, for ‘to be spiritually minded is life and peace.’ Peace, because the soul is conscious of being the object of divine love, is a precious attendant upon the spirit of adoption, which is the very essence of peace. Brethren in Christ, may this threefold peace with God be with you always.” (C. H. Spurgeon)

Slide 15 Paul concludes the letter with his signature and final farewell.

The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. V17,18

Deu 15:7

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“If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, “but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs. Deut 15:7,8