

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

Workin' for a Livin'

1. Feel the Force! 6

- A. Command
- B. Not Just a Good Idea

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ

- C. Walking in Idleness
- D. An Established Teaching

"So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter." -2 Thessalonians 2:15 ESV

- E. Work Has Been Valued

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." -Genesis 2:15 ESV

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." -Exodus 20:8-11 ESV

Imitating God's creative work

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." -Ephesians 2:10 ESV

"One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, 'Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.' This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith," -Titus 1:12-13 ESV

Dignity of work

"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God." -Leviticus 19:9-10 ESV

"You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning." -Leviticus 19:13 ESV

"Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts." -James 5:4 ESV

Retirement and Meaning

"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'This applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall come to do duty in the service of the tent of meeting. And from the age of fifty years they shall withdraw from the duty of the service and serve no more. They minister to their brothers in the tent of meeting by keeping guard, but they shall do no service. Thus shall you do to the Levites in assigning their duties.'" -Numbers 8:23-26 ESV

Witness while you work

"and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one." -1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 ESV

"Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need." Ephesians 4:28 ESV

"To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure;" -1 Corinthians 4:11-12 ESV

To the Ephesian elders

"I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" -Acts 20:33-35 ESV

2. Imitate Us! 7-9

- A. Work as Discipleship
- B. They Could have lived off of the Church's support 8

"I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way." -2 Corinthians 11:8-9 ESV

"This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to eat and drink? Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?"
1 Corinthians 9:3-7 ESV

C. An Example Instead 9

3. Getting to the Point! 10-12

- A. Are You Hungry Enough? 10
- B. Busybodies 11

"And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful." -Titus 3:14 ESV

C. Appealing Again to Jesus 12

Reflection:

1. *Where did you learn about work and working? How important is work and work ethic in your walk with Jesus?*
2. *How have you passed on your attitude and beliefs about work to those who are coming up behind you?*

Following UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Genesis 2:15. Did this happen before or after the Fall of humanity? What does this then say about work and how followers of Jesus should view it?

Tuesday: Exodus 20:8-11. What is the rhythm of life according to this commandment? What is it based upon? How do you practice this in your life?

Wednesday: Ephesians 2:10. In this verse we are called God's "workmanship"? What does that say about God's view of work and creativity? How does that speak to our efforts in work?

Thursday: Leviticus 19:9-10. What practice is described in these verses? How important do you think that it is for those in physical need to have a part in the relief and realization of meeting that need is?

Friday: Numbers 8:23-26. What is described in these verses? What purpose do the Levites have after their retirement? How important do you think that it is for people to find fruitful purpose in retirement today as followers of Jesus?

Saturday: Acts 20:33-35. Paul describes to the Ephesians elders the perspective of his mission team toward their work. How would you use these verses to help someone understand their purpose in the work they are doing in the light of their walk with Jesus?