

## Honoring Christ through your work ethic

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, p. 959

- I. AVOID CERTAIN FRIENDSHIPS: DON'T HANG OUT WITH UNDISCIPLINED CHRISTIANS (2 THESSALONIANS 3:6; 1 THESS. 5:14).
  - A. Avoid undisciplined Christians who won't work (3:6a).
    - Excusing laziness because Jesus was coming back?  
Maybe arrogant would-be leaders who wanted support.
  - B. Undisciplined Christians ignore God's Word (3:6b).
- II. BE DILIGENT IN YOUR WORK: FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL'S PHYSICAL WORK (2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-10).
  - A. Paul worked hard to not burden those he served (3:7-8).
    - Paul worked except when supported by others (Acts 18:1-5).
  - B. Paul modelled work for them, although he had the right to financial support (3:9-10; 1 Corinthians. 9:4-14).
  - C. It's God's will to work to earn a living (3:10; Genesis 3:17-19; Ecclesiastes 2:14-15; Proverbs 16:26).
- III. WORK OR FACE REBUKE: PAUL URGED THE CHURCH TO REBUKE OR AVOID LAZY CHRISTIANS (2 THESSALONIANS 3:11-15).
  - A. Working hard helps keep you from gossip and meddling, so settle down and work (3:11-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).
    - Literally – "Work-busy" vs. "busy with everything but work"
  - B. Those who don't work should be confronted (as brothers, not enemies) and avoided if they don't respond (3:14-15).