

I. The Sinfulness of Idleness (vv 6, 14-15).**A.** Considering the Context:**B.** The Sin Exposed: Idleness**1)** The Sinfulness of Idleness

- a)** Idleness is contrary to the Light of Nature (Gen 2:15, 1:28)
- b)** Idleness is contrary to the Word of God (1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 10th Commandments; Col 3:23-24)
- c)** Idleness is against the apostolic Faith delivered to the saints (2 Thes 2:15)
- d)** Idleness is the fount of many sins.

2) The Commonness of this Sin.**3)** Common Fruits of Idleness:

- a)** Undue delay or neglect in fulfilling our duties.
- b)** Murmuring and complaining.
- c)** Inordinate affections for entertainment over our duties
- d)** Lust (Ezk 16:49; 2 Sam 11:4)
- e)** Discontentment and Despair

4) Answering Objections

- a)** Objection 1: What about recreation?
- b)** Objection 2: What about retirement?

C. Church Discipline is to be carried out upon the Idle.**1)** Admonition (1 Thes 5:14)**2)** Suspension from the Lord's Table**3)** The Public Nature of this Discipline**D.** The Attitude of Church Discipline

- 1)** With love, which is not contrary to discipline
- 2)** With the call to repentance, not gossiping amongst ourselves
- 3)** With the desire for restoration

E. Uses from the Text

- 1)** We need to recover sense of shame for sin.
- 2)** We are to repent of our idleness and look to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.
- 3)** We are to persevere with fear and trembling.
- 4)** We are to heed this warning now, lest we fall into idleness, or continue in and compound our sin.

- 5)** We are to turn away from our sin, but then accordingly turn to righteousness.

II. The Goodness of Work (vv 7-13).**A.** Godly example of work (vv 7-9)**1)** The Apostle's example

- a)** In the work of the ministry: (i) Shepherding (1 Thes 2:11); (ii) Preaching (1 Thes 2:9); (iii) Writing (2 Thes 3:17); (iv) Reading (2 Tim 4:13); (v) Suffering (2 Cor 11:23, 28)

b) In common work

- 2)** *Use*, Elders are to be an example as shepherds to the flock of a godly work ethic.
- 3)** *Use*, Be godly examples to others and follow godly examples of others

B. The Warning to those who do not work**1)** Considering this command in light of the petition, *Give us this day our daily bread***2)** The Basis of the Command (Gen 3:19a)**3)** The Nature of the Command — Primarily about life in the Church, but the law is to be thoroughly applied in every area of life (Micah 6:8)**C.** Uses from the Point (vv 11-13)**1)** We are to hate evil and love good**2)** We are to have a high value of work (v 12a)**a)** We are to value all kinds of work (Pr 31:27-28)**b)** We are to know and delight in the goodness of work**i.** For it is a part of the very good creation made by God**ii.** For the shortness of life reminds us of the need to be diligent in our work (Psa 90:12, 17)**iii.** Testified to in nature by the sweetness of rest (Eccl 5:12)**iv.** Benefit to others, particularly our posterity (Pr 13:22)**3)** We are to work as Christians (vv 12b-13):**a)** With humility**b)** With contentment**c)** With endurance**d)** With longevity