

Warnings about Work

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

The Apostle Paul issued warnings about the physical, relational, and spiritual consequences of not working.

- I. There is a required _____ from those who walk disorderly (6-7, 14).
- II. There is a specific _____ of those who don't work (7-12).
 - A. Work is not a _____ of the fall of man (Gen 1:26-28).
 - B. Work is a _____ from God (Ecc 5:19)
 - C. Work is a way to _____ God (Col 3:23; 1 Cor 10:31).
- III. There is a principal _____ regarding those who disobey (13-14).
- IV. There should be personal _____ toward those who are brothers (15).

What then does Christian faith say to this? It opens its eyes, looks upon all these insignificant, distasteful, and despised duties in the Spirit, and is aware that they are all adorned with divine approval as with the costliest gold and jewels. It says, O God, because I am certain that you have created me as a man and have from my body begotten this child, I also know for a certainty that it meets with your perfect pleasure. I confess to you that I am not worthy to rock the little babe or wash its diapers, or to be entrusted with the care of the child and its mother. How is it that I, without any merit, have come to this distinction of being certain that I am serving your creature and your most precious will? O how gladly will I do so, though the duties should be even more insignificant and despised. Neither frost nor heat, neither drudgery nor labor, will distress or dissuade me, for I am certain that it is thus pleasing in thy sight.... God, with all his angels and creatures is smiling — not because the father is washing diapers, but because he is doing so in Christian faith.

- Martin Luther