

How to Live *in the* Last Days

Paul's Second Letter to the Church at Thessalonica

2 Thessalonians

Prayer (1:1–4)

Relief when Jesus comes (1:5–10)

Prayer (1:11–12)

Opposition before Jesus comes (2:1–12)

Prayer (2:13–17 & 3:1–5)

Work until Jesus comes (3:6–15)

Prayer (3:16–18)

The Sin of Laziness

- Laziness is a problem for every human in every generation.
- Proverbs continually warned about “the sluggard” (see, for example, Proverbs 26:13–16).
- Throughout Christian history, “sloth” has been considered one of “the seven deadly sins.”
- Laziness describes a person who is apathetic about his or her responsibilities.
- It’s possible to be very busy and lazy.
- There is doctrinally-driven laziness. The laziness in Thessalonica was driven by “apocalypticism.”

God's Main Point *in 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15*

*Christians must earn their own living
and must distance themselves from
those in the church who won't.*

Work to Earn Your Own Living

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 - This command to earn your own living focuses on Christian men but applies to Christian women as well.
 - Christian married couples can obey this command to “earn their own living” in different ways.
 - Christians may retire from their career, but we should never retire from diligent work.

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2. Christians must distance themselves from those in their church who refuse to earn their own living (verses 6, 14-15).

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2. Christians must distance themselves from those in their church who refuse to earn their own living (verses 6, 14-15).
 - This command to “keep away” is a kind of church discipline, but it’s not excommunication.
 - This command to “keep away” from those not earning their living does *not* apply to everyone who doesn’t have a job.
 - This command to “keep away” applies to other sins and even to our relationships with Christians not in our church.

“There is an inseparable connection between what we believe about the gospel and our day-to-day work ethic.”