

“Living By Example”

2 Thessalonians 3: 1 - 18

June 1, 2014

III We must pay much closer attention to living with self discipline under God’s word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)

God Has Called His People To Serve As An Example Of True Godliness In Very Simple Ways, (vs. 9 - 12)

Message Emphasis: The believer is called, by the work of the Gospel, to labor for the kingdom of Christ. Many today do not accept this call requiring the self sacrifice of the believer so as to be an example to those whom they encounter. We must embrace the fact that though it may be out “right” to receive some tangible benefit, the testimony of the Gospel is much more important.

Praying for God to give them their daily bread may at first seem irrelevant to many believers in our country who don't have to speculate where their next meal is coming from. Why should they ask God for what they already have, and in great abundance? What would be a completely understandable request by Christians in many African or Asian countries seems irrelevant to a well-fed American. So what application does this request have for believers who have an abundance?... When all our needs are met and all is well in our lives, we tend to take the credit for what we have, to feel that we carry our own load. We work hard to earn the money we need to buy food and clothes, pay our rent or mortgage. But even the hardest-working individual owes all he earns to God's provision. Moses reminded Israel that God “is giving you power to make wealth” (Deut. 8:18)... Our life, breath, health, possessions, talents, and opportunities all originate from resources God has created and made available to man. Everything we have is from God... Sometimes God has provided for His children through miraculous means, but His primary way of provision is through work... And He has given us the energy, resources, and opportunity to do so. For those who for whatever legitimate reason are unable to work, He provides care through those who can work... God is always the source of our physical well-being. He makes the earth produce what we need, and He gives us the ability to procure ~~ John F. MacArthur

1) Self Sacrifice Is The Heart Of The Believer, (vs. 9 - 10)

How is my sacrifice an indicator of my faith?

- Edification, Encouragement & Conformity are more important

What is more important? Your rights? Others growth?

It was not because we do not have that right, but to give (Aor.Act.Subj) you in ourselves an example to imitate (Pres.Act.Inf).

“...Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ... But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:12; 15-16)

- Personal responsibility & self discipline are the fruits

Do you not see that “entitlement” is robbery!

For even when we were (Impf.Act.Ind) with you, we would give you this command (Impf.Act.Ind): If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat (Pres.Act.Impv).

“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)

2) The Lack Of Self Sacrifice Leads To Manifest Worldliness, (vs. 11 - 12)

How is my idleness an indicator of my faith?

- Idleness is a heart condition

For we hear that some among you walk (Pres.Act.Part) in idleness, not busy at work (Pres.Act.Part), but busybodies (Pres.Act.Part) .

“The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.” (Proverbs 13:4, ESV)

- The heart of idleness is contrary to Christ

Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work (Pres.Act.Part) quietly and to earn their own living (Pres.Act.Subj).

“Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. For some have already strayed after Satan.” (1 Timothy 5:9-15, ESV)

***What Must I Do To Be Assured Of Faith? ***

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ will you find the self discipline and sacrifice to live with responsibility.

5. God Has Called His People To Preserve The Holiness Of Their Testimony, (vs. 13 - 15)

6. God Has Called His People To Trust In The Teachings Handed Down By His Messengers, (vs. 16 - 18)