2Thess #176;

We are called to step away from laziness.

Let us pick it back up in our current study of 2Thessalonians chapter 3.

Most of you know the background of these letters to Thessalonica if you have been with me at least for the past year.

There was persecution and problems to these new congregations the apostles had developed. That was common.

So, between falling under verbally attacks in their community, as well as threatened by local authorities.

Then adding in the mix, receiving counterfeit letters and false teaching allowed into the congregation, these Bels at Thessalonica were developing a state of confusion.

Especially about end time events.

The Apostle Paul is now at the point of reprimanding them to get them back on track.

2Thes 3:4 We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing, and will do, what we command.

[2Th 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/5/s_1119005) May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the perseverance of Christ.

At this point there is a definitive strength and warning in this letter, directed at certain congregation members who had gone astray.

[2Th 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/6/s_1119006) Now we command you, brothers *and sisters,* in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother *or sister* who leadsa disorderly life and not one in accordance with the tradition which you received from us.

[2Th 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/7/s_1119007) For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined way among you,

/[2Th 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/8/s_1119008) **nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it**, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day **so that we would not be a burden** to any of you;\

[2Th 3:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/9/s_1119009) not because we do not have the right *to this,* but in order to offer ourselves as a role model for you, so that you would follow our example.

The Apostle Paul is making a point to call out certain members who were confused and acting in a lazy manner which is unacceptable inside the plan of GOD.

/The Apostle Paul maintained his tent-making career during his early ministry. This became a part-time means of income until he abandoned it completely around 55 AD. The Apostle Paul was the only Apostle who worked two jobs after being ordained into the office of apostleship. This is believed to be one reason his body broke down during his mid 50’s, also he sustained beatings and traveling illnesses for years.\

All of the apostles suffered hardship and travelled extensively, yet the Apostle Paul really took a physically pounding.

The last time you see some of the apostles fishing was when Peter, filled with guilt for denying LORD 3 times, went out on a fishing trip (John 21). That is when the resurrected LORD Jesus Christ came and ate breakfast with them and forgave the Apostle Peter.

They were called into ministry - to leave their fishing nets and become fishers of men.

/The Apostle Paul would set examples at a new congregation, by coming to teach and develop the church with no offering for his ministry. He did so for 3 reasons; to show the example of hard-work, taking personal responsibility. Second was to display a grace-based ministry, proving he was not a grifter, because he was the least accepted out of all the apostles early on. Third was survival, no one can survive in the devil’s world without income.\

A good leader will lay himself or herself on the line and lead by example when the need arises.

Once the Apostle Paul established a new congregation, he would then request for offerings.

Jump over to Colossians chapter 3 RF.

/Extreme or progressive liberalism has eroded the USA for many years now. Part of that erosion is seen in the ability and self determination to work and take personal responsibility. The welfare system began in 1935 as a program for assistance for impoverished elderly or those with true disabilities. It was a small program designed for a select few. Yet progressive politicians inflated and abused tax payers and now it houses many programs, with well over 1 TRILLION dollars being handed out every year.\

America up until that point had families and Christian ministries that stepped up to help their community.

But once you open a floodgate and everyone becomes entitled after a few years it ballooned massively.

The truth is some folks need medical and financial assistance and we would be foolish to deny that.

The call is – IF YOU can work and even you only can work part time, you should do so.

REPEAT

God will never bless or approve of laziness and the deception of taking advantage of other people’s hard work and other people’s income.

We are about to embark on a short series that may strike some of you as difficult or harsh, but I will back it up with scripture.

This letter to Colosse was written during the Apostle Paul’s first imprisonment. It was designed to give warning against the infiltration of a group called the Gnostics who were twisting the accuracy of the WORD.

They were on a campaign to add into the teaching of the apostles and also take away aspects of scripture.

It was a time of the first wave of what we know today as denominational dogma. The beginning or foundation of religious counterfeits and the New Age movement.

The Apostle Paul is guiding them back toward the journey into maturity. At this point of the letter, he comes to a very pertinent explanation of what we call a chain of command and the need for Bels to take personal responsibility.

/Col 3:18 **Wives, be subject** (*hypotassō*) to your husbands, **as is fitting in the Lord**.

This is not a call to be under tyranny, it is a conscious (free will) choice to follow the chain of command. God’s standard in marriage was set in the Garden.\

HOOP-OH-TOS-OH, was used in the military for soldiers to fall into formation, get under the authority of who the commander is – obey the chain of command.

[Col 3:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/19/s_1110019) Husbands, love your wives and do not become bitter against them.

The call for the wife is follow the chain of command, respect God’s standard for authority.

For the husband the call is to have virtue love, no matter what.

Bitterness in any form is unacceptable for the godly husband.

/GOD has a set standard and set order within HIS plan, when we recognize this and submit to HIS standards we take the first steps into true accountability and responsibility. The first 3 Divine Institutions established in the garden set a standard in human life, pertaining to relationships and expectations of our daily lives. The 4th institution (Nationalism) depends upon the first 3 functioning precisely. \

[Col 3:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/20/s_1110020) Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

There is a reason the list of authority and the doctrine of respecting authority is being built upon here.

It is all foundational principles that start in the Christian home…they start at childhood.

This also means parents need to raise their children the right way. Not abusive and cruel…by the same token, not trying to be their best friend all the time.

REPEAT

You can be best friends with your child when they reach the age of 18…until then YOU are the authority.

/The lessons and skills for hard work, responsibility and accountability begin in the Christian home. When an adult struggles with accepting authority it is often an issue from childhood or a lack of real humility. Therefore, enforced humility must happen for true change in that adult’s life. This happens when the adult Bel makes strong efforts to sit under doctrinal teaching and submit themselves to learn.\

Enforced humility happens the easy way but making conscious decisions to submit under the teaching of BD.

Or - enforced humility happens very uncomfortably, usually at the hands of law enforcement and the judicial system.

[Col 3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/21/s_1110021) Fathers, do not antagonize your children, so that they will not become discouraged.

Men your role as a husband and father is one of great importance. In fact, one of the main reasons we have gangs, crime, teenage pregnancy and lawless people in our society, points back to the lack of good, Christian father’s being responsible and accountable.

Now keep in mind the historic context matters – when we read about slaves and masters, today it points us to a chain of command in life.

Such as employer and employee. Following rules – law and order.

Rank and file…authority and those under authority.

/[Col 3:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/22/s_1110022) **Slaves, obey those who are your human**(sarx) **masters** in everything, **not with eye-service** (*ophthalmodoulia*), **as people-pleasers**, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

The world we live in is flawed and yet there are rules and expectations we must participate in. The Christian works and lives as unto CHRIST! \

SARX – speaks to our flesh to our humanity.

The reality of the world we live in - is there is a need for currency and work, there is a need for skills as well as effort.

OTH-ALL-MAY-DA-LEE-A, was a term used for the slave or servant and worker, who simply looks busy and appears to be working only when the boss or the master is around.

I think we all have worked with people like this in our life.

We fool only ourselves when we take the short cuts in life, when we play deceitful games, at the expense of other people. When we manipulate people and circumstances to take advantage.

/Heb 4:13 And **there is no creature hidden from His sight**, but **all things are open and laid bare** to **the** eyes of Him to whom we must answer.

1Sam 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for **God does not *see* as man sees,** since man looks at the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks at the heart**.”\

[Col 3:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/23/s_1110023) Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people,

That is who you work for Royal Family!

Stop looking at your employer and your current situation as something or someone you just have to appease or just do enough to get by.

Start realizing how we display our life and how we respect authority reflects our relationship with TLJC.

REPEAT

[Col 3:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/24/s_1110024) knowing that *it is* from the Lord *that* you will receive the reward of the inheritance. *It is* the Lord Christ *whom* you serve.

This reward of inheritance speaks to a full set of blessings.

When the Bel can receive all crowns, blessings and rewards, already given to them in eternity past. When your personal escrow account is fully emptied into your lap – that is your full inheritance.

/Every Christian is in full time service for the Kingdom of Heaven, every Christian is called into combat duty for the angelic conflict, yet most are AWOL. Just because you refuse to participate does not stop the calling on your life or the plan of GOD from rolling forward. It simply means in the end, you will receive what you have requested by your words and your actions.\

Every action has a reaction…every decision has a consequence.

Unbel or Bel, eventually you will receive what you requested from GOD.

[/Col 3:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/25/s_1110025) For the one who does wrong **will receive the consequences** of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

The one doing wrong shall receive back for the thing which he has done wrong: and there is not partiality with GOD – HE is always fair, just and righteous.\

In closing today, I want to highlight a few important principles;

/GOD has already given everything and TLJC has fulfilled everything, God the HS empowers all things for us. Therefore, we live in the grace plan of God, yet it takes positive choices and effort after salvation. The Bel who refuses to grow and become intimate with LORD after salvation, receives that which they have asked for, that which they have desired and sought out is given to them. They have decided to leave portions of blessings, rewards already bestowed upon them in eternity past in their escrow account.\

/Just as the winner Bel who made the positive choices in time, receives that which they have desired, pursued and sought out. GOD has already blessed all of us in eternity past, the choice becomes our own. Because GOD is pure veracity, justice, righteous and filled with love, HE gives fairly and freely. The rest is up to each individual to run their own race in the temporal, fight the good fight in time. \

In closing - this is nothing to do with a works program after salvation it is about having a serious relationship. If you do not believe your walk, right now - in time matters, and will open more or less of your own blessings, you are fooling yourself and you are kicking against scripture itself.

/2Jhn 1:8 Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but *that* you may receive a full reward.

Jam 2:20 But are you willing to acknowledge, you foolish person, that faith without works is useless? \

/Jam 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

Prov 4:5 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.\

/Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9 Let’s not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let’s do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.\

/Prov 18:15 The mind of the discerning acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

2Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

(Prov 13:12-18, Prov 3:5-6) \

/Josh 24:15 “But if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served, which were beyond the *Euphrates* River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” \