2Thess #180

We are called into a life of action not timidity.

Pick it back up in 2Thessalonians chapter 3 RF.

The Bels at Thessalonica who decided that the false teaching about the end times was what they were going to put their faith in, set into motion a cancer of apathy within the congregation.

This is very common even today.

False teaching will lead a Christian down the wrong path.

This then begins to multiple among others in a congregation or a Christian circle of family and friends.

As the Bible warns in such scriptures as Luke 8:18, Deu 32:46-47 or as in Proverbs chapter two – be careful who you listen to and what you subject your ears too.

2Thes 3:7 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 office of apostleship set the precedent for the office of pastor-teacher which followed into the CA.

The apostles were supported by their congregations and supported by Christians wherever they travelled and stayed to teach.

The example of walking a spiritual life with hard work, integrity and staying focused upon the WORD is the protocol for all Christians.

/[2Th 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/10/s_1119010) For even when we were with you, we used to **give you this order**: if anyone is **not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.**\

IF is written in the Greek first-class condition – meaning this is true.

Many of the congregation members had decided to sit back and wait for the return of the LORD.

Or in many cases, as we see today - they sit back and become detached from true Christianity waiting on the Rapture.

[2Th 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/11/s_1119011) For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

[2Th 3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/3/12/s_1119012) Now we command and exhort such persons in the Lord Jesus Christ to work peacefully and eat their own bread.

The command in this, is to get your life in order. Get organized, balanced and join the battlefield with the other spiritual warriors.

Evidently some in the church were not working to support themselves, but were living off the charity of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

False doctrine, once fully digested, can change many aspects of your thoughts and your personal life – this is a great example of it.

Jump over to Galatians chapter six RF.

In Thessalonica, as in Corinth and a handful of other cities, the Apostle Paul and his companions sometimes supported themselves by making tents. This was done as I have covered before, for several reasons – one reason was to be an example of responsible Christian living.

They had the right to receive financial support for their spiritual ministry, yet they often gave up this right for the greater needs of a new congregation.

Once that church was established then the offerings were called for.

Notice, it wasn’t addressed to those who physically couldn’t work due to old age or physical handicaps – the message was for the able-body Christians to get up and get busy in their lives.

/Gen 3:19 **By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread,** Until you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

Right from the garden after the fall, there was an established set of lines drawn for mankind, in relation to striving in the devil’s world.\

The misconception that GOD will simply drop wealth and prosperity in our laps if we just act like good boys and good girls, if we pray and read scripture habitually is nonsense.

There is no one in Biblical history who rose to higher levels of maturity by sitting back and indulging in any form of laziness, as GOD opens the financial floodgates onto their lives.

 REPEAT

/Abraham was responsible for many herds of livestock, as well as men and woman, right up until the end of his life. Moses and Aaron had extreme responsibilities as leaders from the moment they stood in front of Pharaoh the first time. David went from a hard -working sheepherder onto becoming a harden warrior and then a king. \

Every apostle led a life of great responsibility and great action until they went home to be with the LORD.

TLJC exhausted HIMSELF preaching and teaching, right up until the ultimate work of salvation upon that cross.

Now the letter to Galatia was one of the earliest letters for the Apostle Paul, the first missionary journey of the Apostle Paul had touched into the southern region of Galatia (47 AD).

Much of the teaching he gets into in this letter, relates to the doctrine of justification.

Except this last section of the letter.

The Galatians are the bloodline of the Guals, or as some may know them as the Celts. These were Celtic tribes who had migrated from other regions of what we call Europe today.

Basically, tribes of Irish and Scottish warriors at one time had dominated this region until the Romans got a handle on them. (58 BC)

Just as a side note, even with the massive size and strength of the Roman military it took 8, bloody years of war, to finally allow Rome to plant a flag there! And still, they never fully had a good handle on those Celtic tribes.

This was a difficult and stubborn culture.

Now in chapter six, we see a final call for the congregation to continue to grow. One area in how the Christian advances is taking account of their own actions.

Taking responsibility of our own efforts.

/Gal 6:1 Brothers *and sisters,* even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing**, you who are spiritual are to restore** (*katartizō*) **such a person in a spirit of gentleness**; *each one* **looking to****yourself**, so that you are not tempted as well.

This was a term used for building and medical purposes; meaning to equip, to mold or fit. To work on a repair, to mend something broken.\

KART-AH-TET-ZO, this verb is written as a present, active, imperative – to restore or join together, such as mend or make a fitting or a joint work.

The present tense, telling us this will be an ongoing issue.

The active voice, points to the Christian being responsible for the action.

The imperative mood, is a command and a strong warning.

/Gal 6:1 - *even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing*;

IF is a third-class condition meaning, this might happen, maybe it will or maybe it won’t. The 3rd class condition is very probable that it may occur, meaning all of us fall short from time to time. The Christian is called into active duty among other Christians, to learn, grow, evangelize and at times take the lead to assist the brethren who has fallen.\

The Christian Walk is not a passive stance…the couch-potato Christian does more damage then good in the plan of GOD.

They often infect the lives of others like we are studying in 2Thessalonians chapter 3.

We all should look in the mirror once or twice a year and truly ask ourselves… honestly, what do we contribute to the body of Christ?

/[Gal 6:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/2/s_1097002) **Bear one another’s burdens**, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

This is a call for spiritual assistance. It is not a command that one Bel take responsibility for another, financially or physically.\

The burden is not self-induced misery, that is reaping what you sow.

To fulfill the LAW of Christ, means we operate in grace and virtue love – especially toward the Royal family.

/You must not be critical when restoring a lost Christian. You can point out things which may be necessary, you can warn sternly, yet your objective is to help not condemn them. They need to see their burdens, failure or problems from the divine viewpoint. The tough love of separation or hard reprimands, need only occur after the consistent approach of grace and love have fallen on deaf ears.\

The truth is, if you are in a position of strength you can be of great assistance to a Christian who has fallen.

/The fact that many Bels never grow into maturity has a ripple effect on the body of Christ, it is as if one body part is missing. Weak Bels are never in a position to assist other Believers. Physical, financial or spiritual assistance can only come from a Christian walking toward maturity. They will know WHEN, HOW and IF the assistance is truly needed.\

In this case of the congregation at Galatia, the Apostle Paul is talking about Bels who may begin to backslide into sinful behaviors.

[Gal 6:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/3/s_1097003) For if anyone thinks that he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Anyone, on any given day, can fall right on their face - spiritually or emotionally.

King David had been at maturity when he raped Bathsheba and had her husband killed.

Abraham and Sarah had been growing into maturity when they dragged Hagar the slave girl into their personal lives.

REPEAT

/[Gal 6:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/4/s_1097004) But **each one must examine his own work,** and then he will have *reason for* boasting, *but* **to himself alone, and not to another.**

You must take responsibility for your own spiritual life. You must assess your walk from time to time to see where you are. Having a Godly pride in who you are in Christ and how far you have come, is healthy.\

It is unhealthy to boast and hold yourself above others – your spiritual growth is between you and GOD.

In fact the Greek word is closer to the word rejoicing then boasting - *kauchēma* (KAL-KAY-MAH), meaning a great joy having an obvious happiness, to give glory.

The work on display in verse 4 is pointing to the Fruit of the Spirit…not your flesh which is dead works.

/The concept in this lesson (Gal 6) is that as you grow your life touches those around you. The true spiritual life is one of growing into maturity so as to give to others and not consistently take from others. The positive pivot and strong remnant of Christians in the temporal walk, determine how strong and effective Satan and his army will be at any given historical point. The apathetic, weak Bels work against the true soldiers of Christ.\

Don’t lose sight of this fact - inaction in combat is often the same as taking action on behalf of the enemy against your own soldiers.

 REPEAT

If you can not get to a position of spiritual strength, how can you pick up your cross daily?

Which is what the Apostle Paul states in the next verse;

/[Gal 6:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/5/s_1097005) For **each one will bear his own load** (*phortion*).

This statement reflects the fact that at the end of our life, we will all be responsible for our own growth as well as the race we have run.\

FAR-TEE-AH, is not like the other word burden (v 2), it means to carry a work load, to distribute a freight or cargo that you are responsible for.

This was actually a naval term for the shipping industry in the ancient world.

/Each Believer has a designated workload, a cargo or freight (cross), we all carry at different points of growth. This cargo must get from point A to point B, therefore it is YOUR responsibility! It was part of the plan it was NOT A SUDDEN burden put upon you. This was expected at some point in your spiritual growth.\

[Gal 6:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/6/s_1097006) The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him.*

The Apostle Paul reminds them, also as part of your work load, will be to support a doctrinal ministry.

Interestingly enough… these Galatians were not very wealthy and yet, history shows they were very generous with the Apostle Paul.

The problem with the Galatians was an area of stubbornness in certain legalistic attitudes about sin or religious rituals. Not giving an offering was not an issue, they gave generously.

[Gal 6:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/7/s_1097007) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap.

This is what I have been pointing out quite a bit recently…every action has a reaction; every decision has a consequence.

/[Gal 6:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/8/s_1097008) 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.**

To sow and reap speaks to an active lifestyle. This points to spiritual production (divine good), what is achieved only by the power of GOD the HS and the WORD active in the Bels life.\

[Gal 6:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/9/s_1097009) Let’s not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary.

/[Gal 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/6/10/s_1097010) 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**.

The opportunity is the TIME, TALENT and TREASURE GOD gives us from HIS grace plan. We are called into action now! Actions that touch the lives of the body of Christ and then outward toward a lost and dying world.\

The Bel who is unwilling to step up and step out, is living a timid lifestyle which we are called out of.

/2Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a **spirit** **of** **timidity**, but **of power and love and discipline.**

A spirit of apathy, doubt and weakness is the polar opposite of what we are called into in the New Nature.\

Our power is found inside the word of God, filled by God the HS.

Our life should reflect the Virtue Love of Christ - that HE put on display during HIS earthly ministry.

We are called into having self-discipline, becoming organized and having a balanced life of purpose and priorities focused on the spiritual, not the natural.

 REPEAT

God has called us to be in HIS army…to operate from HIS power.

God did not call us into apathy and doubt, HE did not give us a SPIRIT of weakness and laziness.

/1Chron 16:11 Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually.

Phlp 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.\