

# Idle Hands in the Church

2 Thess. 3:6-18

3/10/19, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church (Understanding the End)

- I. Regarding **undisciplined** living (v. 6-15)
  - A. Responding to **idle** brothers (6)
    1. Strong words!
      - i. “Command you”
      - ii. “in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”
      - iii. “keep away from”
    2. Identifying the problem **brothers**
      - i. They *are* actually “**brothers**”
      - ii. They are *walking* in **idleness**
        - 1) KJV renders it “walk **disorderly**” = ajtavktwß “*ataktos*” (soldier out of ranks)
        - 2) This is one of the “traditions received from us” (to which they had just been instructed to “hold on”).
    - iii. Contrary to the “traditions received from us” (to which they had just been instructed to “hold on”)
      - **Spoken** (“traditions that you were taught by us... by our spoken word” 2:15a)
      - **Written** (“traditions... by our letter” 2:15)
      - We can connect to other biblical context:
        - Proverbs 10:4-5, 26; 12:24,27; 13:4; 14:23;15:19; 19:15, 24; 20:4, 13; 21:25-26; 23:21; 24:30-34; 26:13-16.
        - Ecclesiastes 4:5
        - Isaiah 56:10.
  - B. The missionaries **example** (v. 7-9)
    1. They were not **idle** (7b)
    2. They always **paid** for what they ate (8a)
    3. **Worked** night and day (8b)
    4. Strived not to be a **burden** to the believers there (8c)

- i. Implication that the Thessalonian believers were mostly not well-off, but struggling to make ends meet.
  - ii. Missionary example: not demanding their rightful financial support from the Thessalonians.
- C. The one **unwilling** to work (v. 10-13)
  - 1. The “command”: don’t **feed** the one unwilling to work! (10)
  - 2. The failure: some were nothing more than idle **busybodies!** (11)
  - 3. The response (12):
    - i. Encourage them to **work** quietly
    - ii. Earn their own **living**
  - 4. Don’t give up because others are idle and busybodies – stay the course (13)
- D. Correcting the erring brother (v. 14-15)
  - 1. Do:
    - i. Take note
    - ii. Have nothing to do with that person
  - 2. Goal:
    - i. Bring him shame
  - 3. Do not:
    - i. Demonize as an enemy, still a brother (15)
    - ii. Overreact. Simply **warn** this brother (15b)
- II. Final assurance (Benediction) (v. 16-18)
  - A. The Lord be with you (16)
  - B. Paul sends personal signature (17)
  - C. The grace of Jesus be with you (18)

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