(*continued from previous page)*

Vs. 7-9

- The "tradition" they were to follow was Paul's example of a Christian work ethic! Why was it so critical to Paul that he support himself? And, if Paul asserted his authority and insisted on financial support, what effect might this have on his ministry?

Vs. 10-12

- "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat!" Discuss the difficult balance between benevolence in the church and "tough love": teaching discipline and hard work. When should a church give free handouts, and when should a church refuse?
- Review the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25). What was the key reason the third servant was unfaithful and lazy?
- Work is good! Review these reasons:
  - Adam worked in the Garden before the Fall.
  - Jesus worked, as the Servant of All.
  - We work, because Jesus first worked for us.
- Folks tend to either be CONTRIBUTORS or CONSUMERS at church. How can you contribute more? Encourage & pray for each other!

Discussion Points for "WORK!"

2 Thessalonians 3

CALVARY OXNARD GROUPS

Sunday, August 28, 2022

First

Paul is wrapping up his letter to the Thessalonians. Overall, Paul has praised them for their diligence in following Jesus and has commended them for how the Gospel has sprung forth from their community to the world around them.

But, sticking out like a sore thumb are a few deadbeats who are causing trouble! They are busybodies and freeloaders, and they aren't imitating the work ethic that Paul and his team exemplified. And worse: they aren't representing Jesus!

Paul encourages the church to call these unruly folks out and correct them. But even as they do, Paul encourages the faithful to "not grow weary in doing good"—to keep up the good work they are so well known for!

Discussion Points

Vs 1-2 > Prayer for deliverance

- Paul asks for prayer that God's word will be swift in his ministry—"just as it is with you." Review how God's word transformed the Thessalonians (see 1 Thess. 1:8 & 2:12)

Vs. 3-5

- God is faithful and establishes us. Review Phil. 2:12-13. Why should we avoid saying, "just stop being lazy and work harder"? How should a believer "get to work"? What needs to be the motivation & power source?

V. 6

- "Disorderly" is a military term for "being out of ranks." Why is rebellious independence so dangerous in the body of Christ?
- "According to the tradition" is explained in the next verse…

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