

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 4

Lesson 8: The Biblical Work Ethic

1Thessalonians 4:9-12

January 29, 2024

The Word of God teaches that each individual has a responsibility to do the very best they can with the strength and the talents that God has given them for the benefit of their family and their fellow man. When that is neglected, there will be a deterioration of the family, the community, and the nation. Expecting the government to take care of you is a violation of the word of God.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

- We are commanded to work with our own hands (vs 11).
 - If you refuse to work:
 - You are disobeying the commandment of God (vs 11).
 - You are dishonest. (vs 12). You're taking money that somebody else worked for.
 - You will have lack (vs 12).

2 Thess 3:10 Here's another command: **"If any would not work, neither should he eat."**

- Giving people free money causes them to lose ambition to look for work.

3:11 People who do not work at all have plenty of freedom to get into your personal business and spread it around (**busybodies**).

3:12 Work with quietness and eat your own bread. This is a command.

- When you accept welfare (free handouts), you're eating somebody else's bread.

1 Tim 5:8 A believer who will not take care of a family member in need is worse than an infidel.

- The basic foundational principle of Christianity is giving of yourself to others.

John 12:1-6 Often we are told what to do with our money by people who want to get their hands on it. They are thieves.

- Jesus said we'd be better off giving our money to Him (Missions, witnessing materials, bibles, etc.) instead of giving money to the poor.
- Lost people should support other lost people who are in poverty. Especially if they're in poverty because they lived like the devil.
- Saved people should use their money to either help a brother in need (1 Jn 3:17) or they should use it to lead the lost to Jesus Christ (2 Cor 9:6-8).
 - We should not relieve people of the consequences of their own sin.

Gen 2:15 God assigned man to work in the garden before the fall. Work is not a curse. Your God-given nature is for you to work.

Gen 3:17-19 The ground was cursed. Work will be more difficult. When you get right with God, you'll have a desire to work.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

Prov. 10:4 **"He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand."**

Eccl. 9:10 **"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."**

Prov. 14:23 **"In all labour there is profit."**

- Eccl. 10:18 **“By much slothfulness the building decayeth, and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.”**
- Eph. 4:28 **“Let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good...”**
- Eph. 6:5-8 When you work, do it obediently, **“As unto Christ”** (vs 5). Not **“as menpleasers”** (vs 6) (Looking busy when the boss can see you, slacking when he’s gone.) **“Doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men”** (vs 7). Reaping what you sow (vs 8).
- If your employer isn’t treating you right, God sees it, and will compensate you one way or another.
- Col. 3:22 **“Obey in all things...not with eyeservice (pretending to work)...do it heartily, as to the Lord...ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”**
- 1 Tim. 6:6-10 Be content with what God provides. Earn an honest living; don’t get greedy, the love of money will cause you to err from the faith. It will hurt your family, your church, and your relationship with God.
- Eccl 5:12 **“The sleep of a labouring man is sweet...”**
- Ezek. 16:48 The iniquity of Sodom was not homosexuality (that’s the result of the iniquity). Their iniquity was **“fulness of bread and abundance of idleness.”**
- When you are idle, when you have plenty of time on your hands, you will use that time to progressively indulge in ungodly pleasures.
- Prov. 14:23 **“In all labour there is profit.”**