



Work and Principles of godly work

This teaching is geared toward encouraging people to work. We want to work and should be working, yet some refuse to work. Paul wrote an entire chapter to address this issue.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; 8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. 13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. 14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Paul dealt with a subject of work in these passages. He dealt with and warned against idleness.

2Th 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

- i) This was a command not a suggestion and it was not in the name of Paul, but in the name of the Lord.
- ii) This verse is clearly telling us to disassociate and separate ourselves from those that walk disorderly. In the following verses Paul describes what disorderly means. Although we can take liberty with the word disorderly, **the context suggests that this "disorderly is a reference to one who refuses to work.**

- iii) Although the Word of God is against the traditions of men for they make the Word of God of none effect (Mark 7), the traditions that Paul is talking about would have to be in line with the Word of God for him to have shared it with these believers.

2Th 3:7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

- i) **Paul had lived an exemplary life for others to follow.** He was not commanding these believers to do that which he had not done. He was not saying do as I say, not as I do as some leaders say. A person who has to say such, needs to sit down. Paul
- ii) Paul had walked in an orderly manner. This is saying that he was not lazy doing nothing but rather he worked. If we do not live what we preach, we lose influence and respect from others. We have to live a godly life if we are going to preach.
- iii) **Someone I know who has been in ministry for over 50 years said, that while saying and teaching the right thing is important, if a minister is living an opposite, it is not only wrong. It releases death, not life to the hearer. It could be powerful revelation, but its impact is diminished by the lifestyle of the minister. A leader has to live what he ministers. God help us all.**

2Th 3:8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for naught; but wrought with labor and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

- i) **Paul and his fellow ministers** were supported themselves and did not trouble or burdened these believers with their needs. He labored and worked. They worked hard and hustled: day, night and overtime so that they wouldn't be a financial burden to those they were ministering to.
- ii) Paul gave the reason why he chose to work. He never wanted to be chargeable before these believers.
 - o The word "chargeable" is translated from a Greek word which means "to be heavy upon, that is, (pecuniarily) to be expensive to; figuratively to be severe towards" (Strong's Concordance).
- iii) Paul worked a secular job as he ministered. Acts 18:3 says, "And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers"
- iv) This verse clearly reveals that Paul was a tent maker.
- v) Paul who wrote three quarters of the New Testament worked a secular job to meet his needs, who do we think we are not to work because we have been called to ministry?

- Some ministers still believe it is wrong for them to work if they are called to minister and teach the Word. For Paul, he not only worked, but he was also hard working, worked long hours, day and night.
- If your ministry or church has no income to support and/or pay you as a minister, you need to find a job to do as you minister until such a time as it financially can pay you to focus primarily on it.
- When I was teaching in Bible College, I dealt with this a lot. Many young ministers refused to work. We taught them and coached them to work.

2Th 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an example unto you to follow us.

- i) Paul made it clear that the other reason he worked was to be an **example to the believers**. If anything, he had all the right to eat of the gospel through receiving offering (1 Corinthians 9:1-27). Few people today would take that same route Paul took to be an example.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

- i) This first implies that there were people who were lazy and **would** not work. For Paul to address this the way he did would only imply that there were some problems in this area.
- ii) I have seen this problem in some church circles. Some of these believers would just go to the church to pray and many do not work. This has encouraged laziness. These folks should not eat if they are not willing to work.
 - The way God is going to prosper you is going to be through work. **God doesn't give us money, but He blesses the work of our hands**. If our hands do nothing, there is nothing to bless. As we lay our hands on work, our work becomes blessed. Deuteronomy 28:12 "The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow."
- iii) The western culture especially in America has enabled laziness. This verse may come off as harsh to some, but the truth is that those who **would not work—NOT could not work, should not eat**.

- This verse would make the liberal democrats mad because they believe in a welfare system which discourages work. The welfare system has in return-built generations of welfare dependents and recipients.
- God's word is clear that he who does not work, should not eat. Living off welfare while refusing to work is an ungodly principle that needs to be stopped and discouraged.

- This is not to say that we shouldn't support those who need it temporarily to get back on their feet due to some temporary injury or loss of employment but living off welfare it should be discouraged.
- iv) If we are going to help the poor that are able to work, we should always tie that help (food or financial) to some sort of work. Every move we make ought to be encouraging people to work. **It is not compassion to enable laziness. If anything, it is false compassion.**
- v) **We should give a hand up not a handout. Handouts decapitate people and remove their motivation to work. There is dignity in work. Get out and work!**

2Th 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

- i) This verse makes it clear what disorderly is referring to as mentioned earlier in this chapter. It is referring to those who would not work. Those who are not willing to work, yet they are able.
- ii) Not working or refusing to work is walking disorderly. It is out of order not to work.
- iii) "Busybodies" used here is a reference to meddling. Those who were not working were instead being used of the devil through meddling. Paul had warned against it. 1 Thessalonians 4:11 "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;"
- iv) Those who do not work have or will find more time to commit sin. **Satan will employ them.** He will give them something to do. This one of the reasons I don't believe or like retirement.
 - When most people become retired, they become weak and sick, and I believe it is because working is one of the ways to keep our minds and our bodies healthy.
 - If we have time to do nothing, we will resort to doing things that indulge the flesh.

2Th 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

- i) Paul did not just command, but also encouraged them to work. If we just resort to commanding people, that format will not be as effective as with encouragement.
- ii) Instead of being busybodies, we should get to work and mind our own business. Those who have nothing to tend to get into meddling, backbiting, slander, and defaming of others.
- iii) The word "quietness" is a reference to peacefulness. **When busybodies get to work, peace prevails.**

iv) "Eat their own bread" implies that they were busy eating others bread. **They were parasites.**

2Th 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

- i) If we are going to be weary, it should be of doing that which is wrong not that which is right.
- ii) Working is well doing. We should not be tired of it.

2Th 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

- i) This was very serious. Those words of this epistle would include withdrawing, removing ourselves, and having no association with those who refuse to work.
 - o Not giving food or financial support to those who refuse to work.
 - o 2 Thessalonians 3:6 "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."
- ii) Paul repeats what he had said earlier about withdrawing ourselves from those who refuse to work. Here in 2 Thessalonians 3:14, **he doubles down** on having no company with a man who disobeys his commands.
 - o Why? 1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.
- iii) Not working while begging and collecting from the others should cause us shame. It is a shameful thing to do. We should be ashamed of walking disorderly, living, and indulging in sin.
 - o The sad thing is that we now live in a time where people are not ashamed of their ungodliness. There should be shame for living like the devil.

2Th 3:15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

- i) The word "admonish" comes from a Greek word that means: "to put in mind, that is, (by implication) to caution or reprove gently" (Strong's Concordance).
- ii) Just because a person refuses to work doesn't make him an enemy. Rather instead of treating him as an enemy, we should admonish him as we would a brother.

Part II

I have met people that are lazy around the world. They have a communist mindset. They want others to go work and they want to partake what they have not worked for. This is a typical mindset of most of Europe. The US on the other side is capitalist. People can maximize and keep their profits they have from their innovation, smart and hard work. They do not have to bring it and share it with everyone. Why should they? Everyone has to go and work. The capitalist system is closer to the scriptures than the socialist and communist economic system.

A capitalistic mindset is one that promotes a working attitude, unlike the socialist or communist mindset. God created us to work. Of course, when Adam and Eve sinned work had a curse tied to it in the sense that we had to toil and labor harder.

God is a worker.

- a) Genesis 2:2-3 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.
- b) John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.
- c) John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.
 - i) God was working. We should work.

Adam worked (Garden of Eden)

Prayer and work—Many people use prayer for everything. They think they can just pray and all things fall in place. Wrong! The kingdom of God has principles it works on and if violated, things do not work for you.

You cannot substitute prayer for work. You must get out and go find work.

Work is a form of Worship.

Keys to Principles of Godly work and business

- 1) The Blessing

Deuteronomy 28:12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

Notice the key words are:

- a) God
- b) Blesses
- c) Work
- d) Your hands.

I once managed a wireless phone store in NY. I was owned by a Muslim man. He loved me because I was a hard worker and made him a lot of money in the middle of stiff competition. He took me around to oversee other stores and help them improve and get better. He had like 10 stores. I took that business from the very start where it was making no money and in less than 3 to 6 months it was making serious money. I managed it for 5 years and I saw almost \$1 million pass through my hands.

There are certain things I did Integrity, Honesty and Business

2) Godly vision

I had a vision for this store. Integrity Honesty and business. I was going to be honest with all my clients, and I was going to do things with integrity, then after I have done those two things, then I would think about business.

- a) Many people in business have price discrimination. They see how you look, dressed and sound they adjust their prices accordingly. This is ungodly. You should have a price on your product already set and on the product. If you have the price in your head and it is not public, this leads to ungodly business practices.
- b) If you want to make money in a season that is hard, you can give a percentage of discount.

3) Words of our mouth

I never spoke death over my business. Even when the day was not as fruitful as I desired, I refused to speak death and curse it. Many people when the day is not the best, they say, "Leelo lufu." Sente zibuze. Of course, if this is how you talk, you will get what you say which is death.

- a) Mark 11:23-24
- b) Proverbs 6

c) Proverbs 18:20-21 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; *and* with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

4) Seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).

5) No bad job? Yes, there is.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

a) Not Every work is a good work and has the blessing of the Lord.

b) Let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is **good**.

i) What is good in the eyes of the Lord is what is godly.

ii) Prostitution, robbery, cheating, and stealing are all not work. There is no blessing on such stuff. You are wasting time.

6) Capital?

There is strategy to getting capital. First start small. Many people want to start big. They are looking for a lot of capital which makes it impossible for them to get but also to start. In all business, you can start small and gradually grow to where you want to be.

I have met people who want to go in business and ask me for capital.

a) Yet, they have Smart phone, car, land? Many people love a life of showbiz even when they do not have money to live it. Others want capital yet they have things they can sell to raise some of that money.

b) Lone ranger?

Maybe you need a partner in business. Many people want to do it alone yet if they did it with someone else they could get a head. Half of a loaf of bread is better than a quarter or none at all. Forget the prestige and be smart about making money.

People in the west understand this very well. They open up their companies to investors and people to buy shares and they use this to grow the company and business making lots of money and profits.

Of course, you need a legal document to make this legal. Words alone can't do it. People change especially when they see money. You want to make sure you have all these things in place before you get into anything official even if you are siblings. Agreements protect both of you.

7) Do you pay your workers?

If you do not pay the people, you are stealing from them. You have to pay. If you have no way to pay, find one. People do not leave their homes to come and work only to be robbed by their boss.

8) Why work?

a) Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

i) Give to him that has need

Kyeyo (Greener Pastures)

Many Ugandans have been convinced that they cannot make it here, they decide to go for kyeyo. They go to the Arab world, Europe and the US. I personally believe kyeyo is modern day self-enslavement. I met people on a flight that complained about their jobs in the Arab countries. They cursed their bosses and spoke only bad things about them. I'm not defending them because I do not know them, but if you do not like your boss, quit. It is wrong for you to stay working for him while attacking him.

That attitude does not prosper. You will work hard and harder and you will not see the fruit of your labor. You are too negative and have a bad attitude. There are some people that make it in these countries who are black. You can be that person. I sat close to a young lady who told me about her life in one of the middle east countries. She was not happy about her boss and how they treated her. I, not bragging but if I were in one of these countries working, I would flourish so much. I would stand out of all the blacks and would see the blessing of God on my life and would be promoted and all. I would learn the culture and the language, and I would be the boss for all the blacks who go there. It is possible. I advised this young lady to learn the language and be more valuable to her boss. She would be treated a little better and she would get paid a little more than the average person.

That a side, I want to call upon all of you that receive money from people abroad to help them with their projects and businesses to be people of integrity. These people work so hard and they get robbed and cheated by people on both sides of the world. Friends and family members you need to repent from robbing these people. The life they go through and how hard they work should not be taken

lightly. Many of you could not survive the winter and the lives they have to endure. Many of them work 18 hours every day and send money home for a project, house, or business only for a friend or family members to steal and use it for their own "masape." (local word meaning extravagance) You will not get away with this behavior. You may be fooling them but you sure are not fooling God. He is watching and you will SURELY reap what you sow. Agree on what they should pay you for your assistance and leave their money alone. These people go through so much pain, and you should not be an additional pain.