



Title | The Gift of Work
Series | Standing Firm When Shaken
Text | 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
By | Bob Kerrey
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Sermon Notes

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 13 As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. 14 If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother. 16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. 17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. *ESV*

Big Idea:

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. There is a problematic kind of person in view. List all the descriptions of this person. What is the problem? Do you know anyone like this?

Tuesday:

From 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, construct a biblical work ethic—a set of values guiding work—based on Paul’s teaching and example.

Wednesday:

From 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, how are we to relate to fellow believers who are able but unwilling to work and are looking for a handout instead? Are Paul’s commands loving? Why or why not?

Thursday:

Read Genesis 1:1-2:2. Is work a gift or a curse? How is work related to being made in the image of God?

Friday:

Among the relationships you have right now, is there one in which it may be more loving for you to withhold than to give?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, please give me the wisdom to know when it is more loving to withhold than to give, and grant me the courage to do what is best. Amen.

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