

SERIES TITLE: FUTURE.ORG

SERMON TITLE: STANDBY MODE

TEXT: 2 THESSALONIANS 3

INTRODUCTION.

The believers who lived in the city of Thessalonica received two letters from the Apostle Paul. In his second letter, Paul addressed issues of increased persecution, and confusion over Christ's return. The new level of suffering caused the church to believe rumors that the end was near. As a result, some Christians decided not to work. Over the next three weeks, we will study Paul's answer, and learn how to organize life until Jesus returns.

DISCUSSION.

What was your first paid job?

EXAMINATION.

Vv.1 -5 Paul has twice prayed for these people (1:11-12; 2:16-17). How does he want them to pray for him and his companions?

How would the encouragements in vv.3-5 help them in their trials?

v.6 How might a misunderstanding of Paul's earlier teaching (1 Thess. 5:1-3) have led to the problem of idleness?

Why would Paul see that as a serious problem then (1 Thess. 4:11-12) and now?

Vv.7-9 What model does Paul leave for the others to follow?

What does this have to do with taking responsibility?

V.10 What do you think of the "won't work, can't eat" rule?

When would it be difficult to apply?

Vv.11-12 Knowing that the word translated "busy" is the word for "work" (see v.8), what kind of busyness does God want from us?

When is busyness wrong?

V.13 Why would Paul need to encourage non-idlers to keep doing what is right?

Vv.14-15 What was the reason not to associate with an idler, and how would it work?

How is the church to guard against taking this too far?

Vv.16-18 Why does Paul emphasize peace?

Why does Paul call attention to his handwriting?

APPLICATION.

- How is it possible to be a workaholic and still be idle?
- What does this passage tell us about the significance of work?
- How does this passage challenge your view of helping brothers and sisters in need?
- Is it easier or more difficult to follow these instructions today than in Paul's day? Why?
- What truth in chapter 3 have you found to be the most personally challenging, and why?
- What does it look like to "not grow weary of doing good"?
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?