

## Understanding 2 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 (p.1260)

Intro

The \_\_\_\_\_ produces “gospel work” among God’s people, but sometimes it’s difficult to know \_\_\_\_\_ to help someone.

*“...work of faith and labor of love...” (1 Thess. 1:3)*

### I. As a church \_\_\_\_\_....

The church in Thessalonica was very \_\_\_\_\_ about the second coming of Jesus, but the very event that should \_\_\_\_\_ us had become for some an \_\_\_\_\_ to be idle.

*“...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven.... you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (1 Thess. 1:9,10; 5:2)*

*Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ... (2 Thess. 2:1)*

***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. v.6***

We don’t want to \_\_\_\_\_ too closely with people—especially Christians—that might have a negative \_\_\_\_\_ on our work and our walk with the Lord.

*“Bad company ruins good morals.” (1 Cor. 15:33)*

***For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 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. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. v.7-9***

Paul wants to preserve the culture of gospel \_\_\_\_\_ in the Church; he also wants others, including idle Christians, to \_\_\_\_\_ in.

This is not an excuse to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ people or difficult situations; rather, we don’t want to “help” people in ways that might \_\_\_\_\_ them.

There is a way of “helping” that can be \_\_\_\_\_; we want to \_\_\_\_\_ others carry their burdens, not carry their burdens for them.

**For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. v.10,11**

*Bear one another's burdens... For each will have to bear his own load. (Gal. 6:2,5)*

**Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. v.12**

*we urge you, brothers, to...aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands...so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.... (1 Thess. 4:11,12)*

*Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (Eph. 4:28)*

*exhort one another every day.... let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works (Heb. 3:13; 10:24)*

**II. we want to help others to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.**

The coming of Jesus Christ should \_\_\_\_\_ us to serve the Lord and others with joy, and that involves working with and associating with \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of people.

***As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. v.13***

*let us not grow weary of doing good... (Gal. 6:9)*

There are some people that we can't \_\_\_\_\_ contact with due to our circumstances or our responsibilities; we're not talking about being rude.

*I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. (1 Cor. 15:9,10)*

The purpose of withholding close fellowship is not to \_\_\_\_\_ people but is to avoid the harmful effects of sin and to \_\_\_\_\_ people to serve the Lord.

***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. Do not regard him as an enemy but warn him as a brother. v.13-15***

*... we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle... (1 Thess. 5:14)*

Withholding close fellowship should be the \_\_\_\_\_, not the rule; Jesus has come \_\_\_\_\_ to us for our good, so in general we should draw near to others.

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#### I. **As a church body...**

The church in Thessalonica was very excited about the second coming of Jesus, but the very event that should motivate us had become for some an excuse to be idle.

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