



## It's time to get busy

*April 24, 2017*

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-9 NLT** – (6) And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. (7) For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. (8) We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. (9) We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow.

I recall an acquaintance of mine who never had a job, simply because he was accustomed to others doing for him. He was finally motivated to seek out employment. After securing a job, he fell into his usual behaviors.... He laid around watching television until the wee hours of the morning. This behavior continued and he grew content with it as laziness set in. In the mornings, the alarm clock was a minor irritant that he ignored, pressing snooze over and over again. It was easy to fall back into this pattern; after all, he was accustomed to sleeping and lazing around all day. He began arriving later and later to work, but still expected a full check. What do you think happened? He was eventually fired. His work ethic was not in line with the company's. He had become content in his ways.

In the above passage, Paul wrote about the lazy person. When Paul and his companions were in Thessalonica, they worked hard, buying what they needed rather than becoming a burden to any of the believers. The rule they followed was, "Those who were unwilling to work will not get to eat." Paul was clear. There is a difference between leisure and laziness.

Relaxation and recreation provide a necessary and much needed balance to our lives; however, when it's time to work Christians must jump right in. We should make the most of our talent and time, doing all we can to provide for ourselves and our dependents. Rest when you should be resting, and work when you should be working.

### SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 13:4

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"People who never do any more than what they get paid for,  
never get paid for any more than what they do."