



NO SERVICE FOR THE SLACKER

JULY 29, 2024

2 THESSALONIANS 3:10 NKJV – (10) For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

It is right to have a heart that would continually give to others, and it pleases God to see this wonderful characteristic in our lives. However, in this area of giving and helping, the Bible also teaches that we must have wise discernment (**Matthew 10:16**). God gives us certain standards that we must take into account when it comes to giving our time and money to others.

Paul and his associates had taught the Thessalonian believers not to tolerate those who were capable of work yet chose to be idle. In modern terms, such a person might be called a "slacker." Paul labels such a person as unworthy of assistance. He instructs the Thessalonians not to support those who were unwilling to work. This parallels guidelines given by Paul in passages such as **1 Timothy 5:11–13**.

When the Bible tells us we are to help others, the purpose is never for us to do this to the point where it becomes detrimental. It's good to do what we're able to do, but **2 Thessalonians 3:10** also reminds us, "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." There are people who want to live an irresponsible lifestyle with absolutely no accountability. So, there must be limits; we will help someone with a need, but if we see that it's become a chronic life pattern, it's wrong for us to continue to encourage that.

It's very harmful to others to contribute to their indolence, laziness, and lack of effort. The old saying "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day, teach him to fish and he eats for a lifetime" is very true. As long as we see that someone is sincerely making an effort, we should be there to support him in whatever way God leads.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 TIMOTHY 5:11–13

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: God is no fonder of intellectual slackers than He is of any other slacker.