



WEEK 8 | FINAL INSTRUCTIONS | 2 THESSALONIANS 3

Inspection: What Does It Say?

What was Paul's prayer request in verse 1?

What was Paul's prayer request in verse 2?

Read verses 7-8. In what way should those in Thessalonica follow Paul's example?

What encouragement in verses 11-12 did Paul suggest to those who are busybodies?

What was the purpose in verse 14 of not associating with those who are idle?

Observation: What Does It Mean?

Why is peace a needed virtue in life?

Why was it important to Paul to write the final greeting in his own hand?

What are the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual benefits of work?

How does one not associate with people who are idle without making them an enemy?

Read verse 10. Is it okay to have rules in the church? Who should write these rules?

Life Application: What Does It Mean For Me?

Pray daily for preachers, teachers, and missionaries.

Pick an Impact mission from Fairmount's website and send a note of encouragement.

Make a list of what kind of occupations the 12 apostles held in civilian life.

Consider what kind of example you are setting in your approach to work.

Consider how you are sharing the Bread of Life with those who are starving spiritually.

Meditation: What Does God Say?

Proverbs 6:6

Titus 3:8

Hebrews 6:12

Exodus 36:6

Micah 7:7

2 Corinthians 10:5

John 5:17

Proverbs 24:30-34

Supplication: What Can We Meditate?

Jamestown leader Captain John Smith issued the following command to the settlers because many of them were idle or were spending their time trying to find gold:

“Countrymen, the long experience of our late miseries, I hope is sufficient to persuade everyone to a present correction of himself, and think not that either my pains, nor the Adventurers purses, will ever maintain you in idleness and sloth. I speak not this to you all, for divers of you I know deserve both honour and reward, better then is yet here to be had: but the greater part must be more industrious, or starve, however you have been heretofore tolerated by the authority of the Council, from that I have often commanded you. You see now that power resteth wholly in myself: you must obey this now for a Law, that he that will not work shall not eat (except by sickness he be disabled) for the labours of thirty or forty honest and industrious men shall not be consumed to maintain a hundred and fifty idle loiterers. Therefore, he that offendeth, let him assuredly expect his due punishment.”

John Cotton (1585-1652), a principal Puritan minister in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, preached the following:

“Faith draws the heart of a Christian to live in some warrantable calling; as soon as ever a man begins to look towards God, and the ways of His grace, he will not rest, till he find out some warrantable calling and employment....Paul makes it a matter of great thankfulness to God, that He had given him ability, and put him in place where he might do Him service, I Tim. 1:12...As God hath called every man, let him walk, I Cor. 7:19, 20. This is the clean work of faith, he would have some employment to fill the head and hand with.”

Benjamin Franklin had a great influence on the American work ethic with his popular Poor Richard's Almanack.

“Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time; for that's the stuff life is made of.”

“Do not depend too much upon your own industry, and frugality, and prudence, though excellent things; for they may all be blasted without the blessing of heaven; and, therefore, ask that blessing humbly, and be not uncharitable to those who at present seem to want it, but comfort and help them....Those who depend upon God shall not want, even in a desert.”