

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2 Thessalonians

These questions are for the **April 10, 2016** sermon, "The Work Ethic." Please read the sermon passage (2 Thessalonians 3:6-10) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

AS WE PURSUE A BIBLICAL WORK ETHIC, NOTE . . .

1. **The teachings God has given His people (6)**
  - A. People who had the ability and opportunity to work were refusing to do so.
  - B. They awaited Christ's return, but needed financial support from others as they waited.
  - C. Scriptures clearly teach us that . . .
    - i. God exalted work, and commanded it (Exodus 20:9-10)--the fourth commandment.
    - ii. God himself is constantly at work, as is Christ and the Holy Spirit.
    - iii. God instructed man to work the garden (Genesis 2:15) BEFORE the fall.
    - iv. Work is a gift from God for our dignity, which will continue into eternity.
    - v. Work can be done for God's glory even in difficult situations (1 Cor 10:31; Gal 6:5-7)
  - D. The big problem with idleness is that it . . .
    - i. allows sin to live in the church. It is willful disobedience to the Lord and His Word.
    - ii. brings dissension into the church by straining relationships needlessly.
    - iii. allows a brother or sister to miss the blessing of work.
  - E. Withhold relationship from those who can work but refuse to do so.
2. **The example God has given His people (7-9)**
  - A. Paul worked to pay his own way so that his example would be seen by all.
  - B. We, the people of God, ought to imitate his example.
3. **The warning God has given His people (10)**
  - A. Let the natural consequences of laziness have their effect in a lazy person's life.
  - B. If someone who calls himself a brother will not work, he should not eat.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We should not be so focused on Christ's return that we have a "can't wait to get out of here" mindset. In what ways do you sometimes struggle with that mindset? How does God want you to be faithful right to the end?
2. Based on #1, above: Talk about how Christ instructs his people to be willing to work, and then also to do our work with excellence. (1 Cor 10:31)
3. Based on #1, above: How can we as parents make certain that we are teaching our children a Christian work ethic when many of their peers may be talking about socialism and working less?
4. Based on #2, above: Who has been an example to you of working really hard and really well without making work or money into an idol?
5. Based on #3, above: Have you ever had to let natural consequences teach someone you loved a hard lesson? How did you handle that situation well? What did you learn from it?