

*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Thessalonica*



II Thessalonians

**"IF ANYONE WILL
NOT WORK"**

(2 Thessalonians 3:6-18)

2 Thessalonians 3:6–18 (NKJV)

⁶ But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

2 Thessalonians 3:6–18 (NKJV)

⁹ not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. ¹²

Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

2 Thessalonians 3:6–18 (NKJV)

¹³ But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good. ¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

2 Thessalonians 3:6–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.

¹⁷ The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

"IF ANYONE WILL NOT WORK"

Withdraw From The Disorderly



2 Thessalonians 3:6
(NKJV)

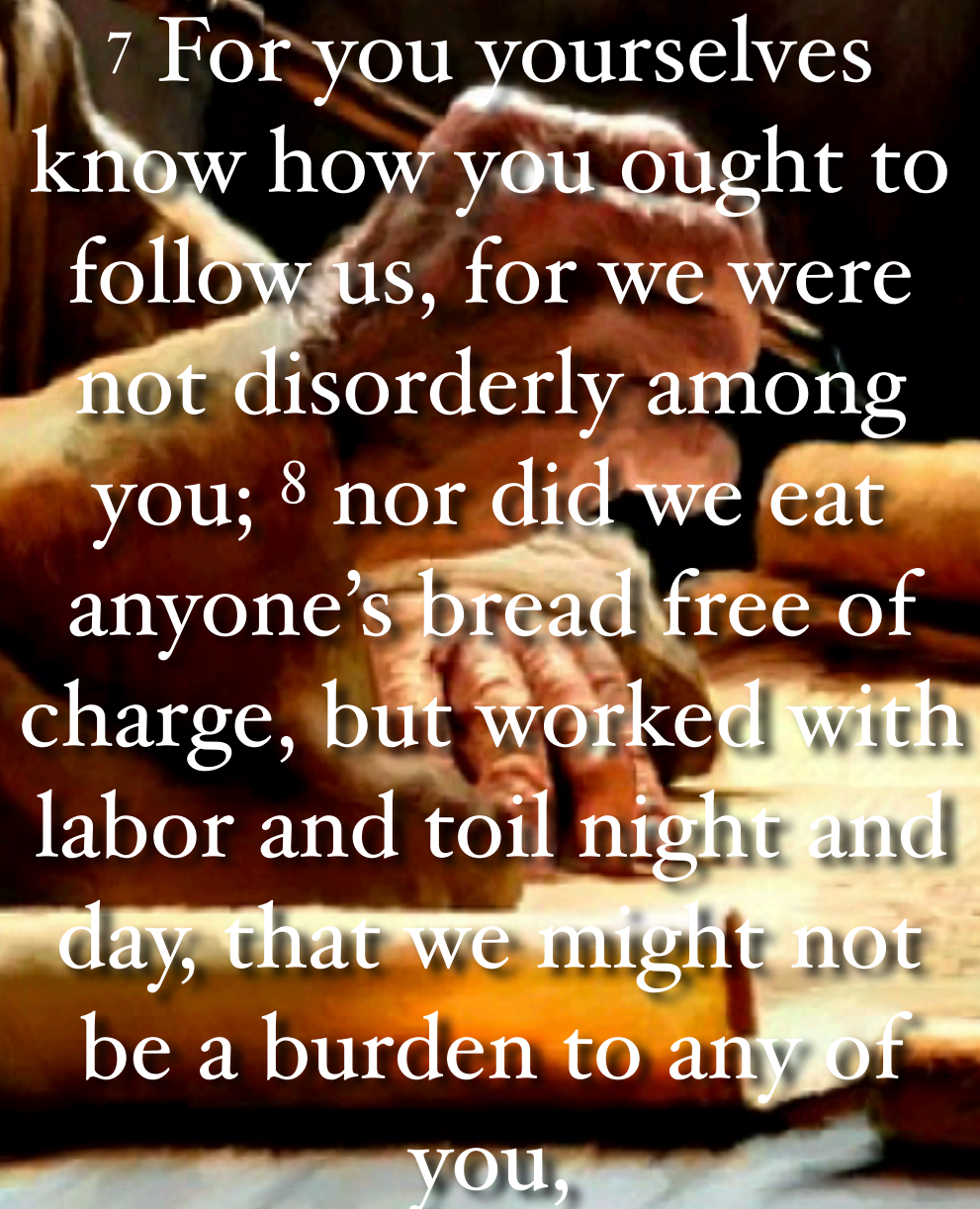
⁶ But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

- ◆ They were commanded to withdraw from those out of rank with apostolic teaching in the name of the Lord — (3:6, 14,15; cf. Mat. 18:17; Ro. 16:17; 1 Co. 5:11–13)
- ◆ *Grecian cultural influence, plus their wrong ideas about the the Lord's return, led some of these believers into an unchristian way of life — some were not working at all, and were busy bodies - vs 11*

"IF ANYONE WILL NOT WORK"

The Example of The Apostles

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9
(NKJV)



7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

- ◆ The importance of apostolic example — (ver. 9; 1 Co. 4:16; 11:1; Phi. 3:17; 4:9; 1 Th. 1:6, 7).
- ◆ Paul himself was not idle. They could verify this claim ("*you yourselves know*," v. 7; cf. 1 Thess 2:1; 3:3; 4:2; 5:2).
- ◆ He supported himself in spite of much fatigue ("*laboring*," v. 8) and many obstacles ("*toiling*," v. 8; cf. 1 Thess 2:9) in order to relieve these new Christians of the burden — (Ac. 18:3; 20:34; 2 Co. 11:9; 1 Th. 4:11.)

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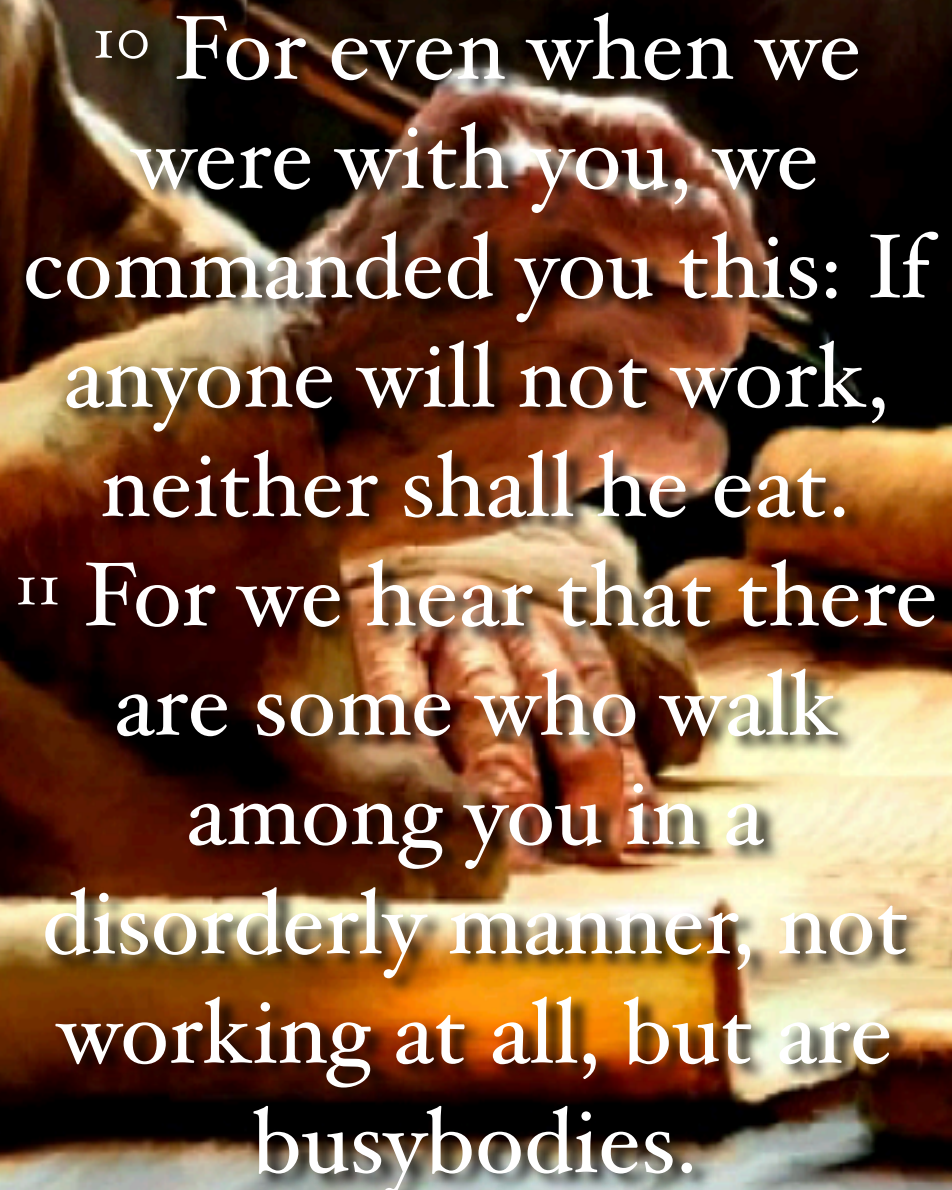
9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

- ◆ This is NOT to say Paul would have been wrong to expect the brethren to support him —
- ◆ Jesus: A worker is worthy of his hire — (Mat. 10:19; Luke 10:7)
- ◆ Paul: *"You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain"* — (1 Cor. 9:4-14; 1 Tim 5:17,18)
- ◆ Paul worked hard to support himself providing an example to follow (*not being a burden to others*)— (ver. 7; Jno. 13:15; 1 Pe. 2:21; 2 Cor. 11:9).

"IF ANYONE WILL NOT WORK"

We Are Commanded To Work

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12
(NKJV)



¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.
¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

- ◆ The instruction here is aimed at those who are “**unwilling to work.**” — (10)
- ◆ Labor was a part of man’s life before sin entered the scene. - (Gen. 2:15).
- ◆ Sin turned labor into almost hopeless toil (Gen. 3:17-19), it must never be thought that the necessity for work is a result of sin.
- ◆ Man needs work for the fulfillment of his own person. God created him to work. - (Prov 10:4; 6:6-11; Eph 4:28)

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◆ The instruction here is aimed at those who are “**unwilling to work.**” — (10)

◆ Not being willing to work is to “*walk disorderly*” — vs. 6, 11

◆ Much is said in the Bible condemning laziness — (Pr. 13:4; 20:4; 21:25; 24:30-34).

◆ An Idle mind is the devils workshop & Idle hands are the devils tools — These idle brethren were busy being busybodies — 1 Ti. 5:13; 1 Pe. 4:15;

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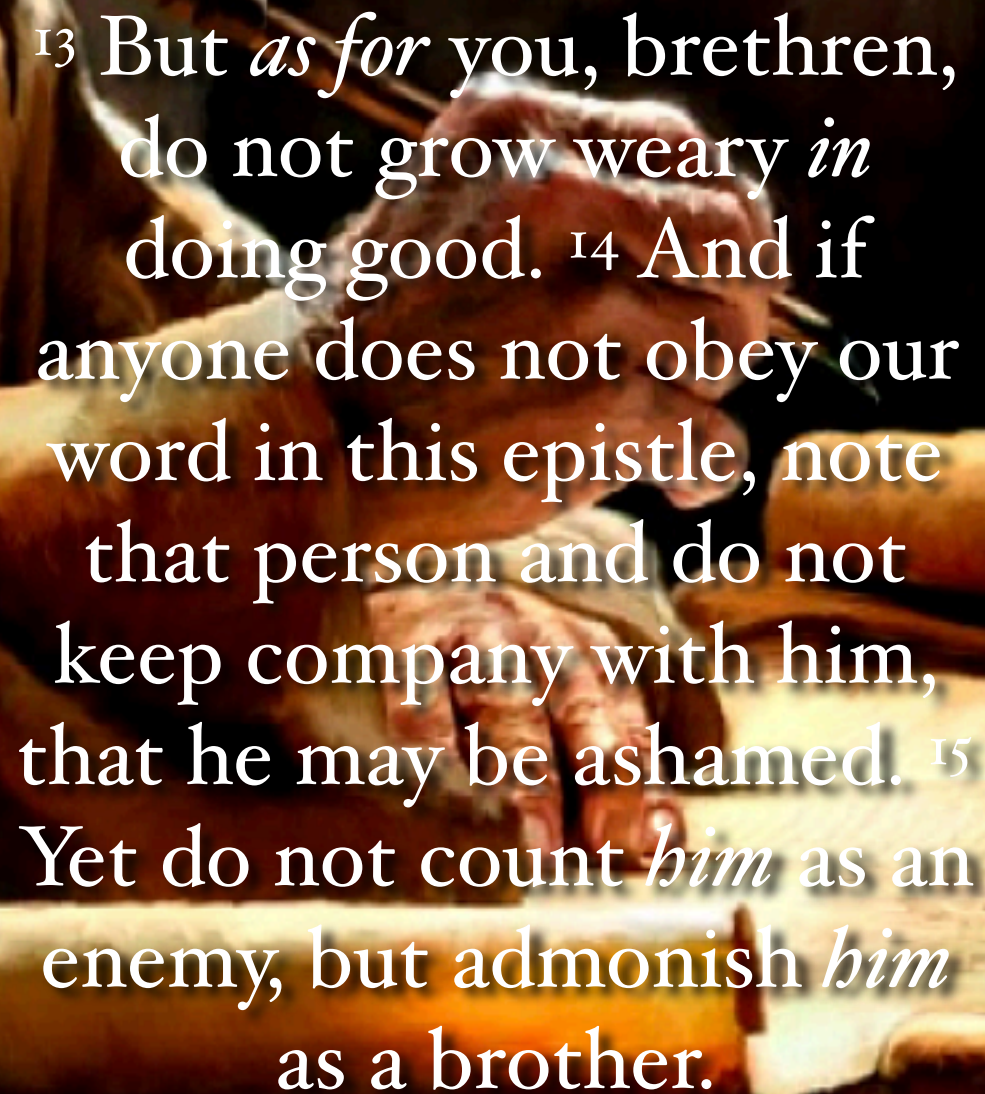
¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

- ◆ They needed to earn their own bread and not sponge off others. Paul had previously told them to do this (1 Thes. 4:11), but because some disobeyed he gave this sterner command.
- ◆ Paul commanded the Ephesians to do the same thing - "*Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.*" - Eph 4:28

"IF ANYONE WILL NOT WORK"

We Are Commanded To Work

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15
(NKJV)



¹³ But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good. ¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

- ◆ Though one may tire in doing what is right, he should never tire of doing what is right. — (Ro. 2:7; 1 Co. 15:58; Ga. 6:9, 10; Phi. 1:9; 1 Th. 4:1; He. 12:3).
- ◆ Note those who do not obey our epistle — (14; Romans 16:17)
- ◆ That he may be ashamed, that he may repent — (Mat 18:15-17)
- ◆ Must continue to love him as a brother — (Jude 22,23)

2 Thessalonians 3:16–18

(NKJV)

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The Lord *be* with you all. ¹⁷ The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

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Proverbs 6:6–11 (NKJV)

⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, ⁷ Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, ⁸ Provides her supplies in the summer, *And* gathers her food in the harvest. ⁹ How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep— ¹¹ So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

