

Study 5 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

Members of the Thessalonian church were refusing to take responsibility. Some had quit working because they thought Jesus would be returning any moment and did not see any reason to exert themselves. Others relaxed because there were plenty of wealthier members in the church who were always willing to share. Regardless of the reason, Paul was upset by such laziness and set the rule, "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

How can our laziness affect the work of Christ? What can we do about the laziness of others? Paul addresses those questions in this third chapter of 2 Thessalonians.

1. In most churches, the majority of the work is done by a small minority of the people. Why do you think this is true?
2. In what ways did Paul expect that his ministry could be enhanced because of the Thessalonians prayer? (v 1-2)
3. How is Paul's confidence in the Lord expressed in this request for prayer? (v 3-5)
4. What encouragement and ideas do these verses give you concerning your own prayer life?
5. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18. How would you describe the problem the Thessalonian church was experiencing? (v11)
6. In what ways do lazy Christians still continue to take advantage of the work of others?

What are the effects?