

LESSON 4

IDLE WORSHIP

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1–18



1 Laziness is . . .

2 Without using names, describe the laziest person you have ever worked with.



Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1–18 and the following notes:

☐ 3:6–10 ☐ 3:6–15 ☐ 3:14, 15

3 Who was shirking responsibility in Thessalonica (3:6)?

4 What should they have been doing instead (3:7–10)?

5 What was the cure for their laziness (3:11–15)?

The Christians at Thessalonica were using the return of Christ as an excuse to be lazy. Believing that Christ would come back any day, they quit their jobs and waited. Paul wrote and told them to get back to work. Even if Christ were about to return, they were not absolved of their responsibilities. God wants us to fulfill all of the responsibilities he has given us while we wait for Christ to return. That is the way we carry out his will.



6 What responsibilities has God given every Christian?

7 What causes people to shirk their responsibilities?

8 What excuses do people use to justify laziness?

9 When is it best to “warn those who are lazy” (1 Thessalonians 5:14)?

10 When is it best to “stay away from any Christian who lives in idleness” (2 Thessalonians 3:6)?



11 What responsibilities has God given you?

12 When are you tempted to shirk your responsibilities?

13 What will it mean for you to be diligent and not lazy?

14 How can you improve the way you use your time at work?

15 What is satisfactory about the way you now use your free time?

16 What adjustments do you need to make in the way you use rest or relaxation time?

17 How can you alter the use of your time this week to better reflect your responsibilities?



A Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray that he would be delivered from evil people (3:2). Why is it important to ask for prayer? What prayer requests do you need to share with others? Whose requests will you pray for this week?

B Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to never tire of doing good (3:13). What did Paul mean by this? Do you ever tire of doing good? If so, why? How can you continue to do good even when you don't want to or are tired of it?

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