

# Is Work a Curse?

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I. Introduction. Text: I Thessalonians 3:6-18.

II. Many think of work as some kind of curse, but really it is a blessing.

- A. There were certain people in the church of Thessalonica that refused to work.
- B. This was not in accord with the proper tradition—right at the core of Christianity is the need of people to work.
- C. God ordained work before the fall of man.

III. Reasons that Paul tells the Thessalonians to work.

- A. Whatsoever you do, you are to do it unto the glory of God—this is the Christian philosophy of work.
- B. Paul modeled the importance of work not wanting to burden others.

IV. The response to people who do not work.

- A. Keep away from these people.
- B. Withhold food from them (those unwilling to work, not those unable to work).

V. Paul addresses those not working in the authority of Christ to do their work in quietness and earn their own living. It is a serious matter when a person does not work.

VI. Handling panhandlers.

- A. Be patient with them because they are brothers.
- B. Do not evade a confrontation—take note of the problem.
- C. Try to make the person feel ashamed of himself.
- D. Do not carry the shame too far.

VII. Work is intended to give us a sense of self-worth.

VIII. The letter closes with the promise of God for peace no matter what our problem is.

**Application questions:**

1. How does Paul model a proper work ethic even in the midst of need?

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2. Have you ever felt satisfied with work? If work is a blessing, why can it be so frustrating at times?

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3. How are we to respond to people who do not work? Why is it important to speak truthfully and yet graciously in a matter such as this?

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