

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

Lord's Day	Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Mon							
Tue							
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M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Christianity 101 -Living”

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

June 1 – June 7, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY –We return this week to **1 Thessalonians 4** where we will look specifically at **verses 11-12**. We saw “*Christianity 101 – Loving*” a couple weeks ago as we studied how we are to love as Christians and the subject matter at hand now in **verses 11-12** turns our attention to “*living*” as a Christian. We will see from Holy Scripture instructions for practical living for the life of the Christian as given to us by The Holy Spirit of God. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord to teach you from His Word this week.*

MONDAY –If you remember back to the last part of **verse 10** Paul left off “*urging*” these believers at Thessalonica to continue in their love for one another and others by “*increasing more and more*”. No matter how much we mature as believers and progress in our development of Christ likeness we always have room to grow more and more. This is what the Apostle reminds these folks when he tells them they are doing an exemplary job in their love but they need to continue to be strengthened and grow. Paul is about to launch into discussion concerning the return of Christ and he is reminding them and us as genuine believers that we are to love, live, and serve more not less with the fact of Christ’s return in mind. Over and over in Scripture we are implored to liver in such a way that we would not be ashamed or caught off guard when Christ returns. Read **Luke 12:35-40**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me to live with a reckless abandonment of sorts as I love and serve You with my whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. And then help me love my neighbor and others as myself.*

TUESDAY – As Paul continues now and turns his attention to practical living the first thing he tells us is, “...*that you also aspire to lead a quiet life.*” I like the translation of the KJV here as it says, “*that ye study to be quiet*”. How antithetical to all we see and hear today is that statement that we are to strive to be “*quiet*”? One lexicon gives the definition of this word “*quiet*” as follows: “to lead a quiet life, said of those who are not running hither and thither, but stay at home and

mind their business.” We are here instructed to make it our ambition to lead a quiet life, even as the Greek words suggest here to consider it an honor, and we do this in a number of ways. We live “quietly” when we are subordinate to the powers over us and not living with a “mob” and “riot” mentality. It is a sacred duty to avoid tumult and disorder living a life of peace and dignity which are excellent testimony to the Gospel and to Christ himself. Read **1 Timothy 2:1-4**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me to live a “quiet” life that displays Your great glory. Help me see that it is an honor for me to live in this way.*

WEDNESDAY –As Paul continues he moves on to tell us not only are we to strive to lead quiet lives but also to, “*mind your own business*”. I can hear my parents echoing these words of Scripture even now. We have all been told this at one point or another but what does the Scripture mean when here God tells us to “*mind our own business*”? The Greek word idios which is here translated “*own business*” means “pertaining to one’s self, one’s own, belonging to one’s self.” Quite simply it is implied we are not meddle in everyone else’s affairs but concentrate on our own business. Paul speaks in 2 Thessalonians to this issue which seemed to be a problem in the lives of these people when he told them to “*work in quietness and eat their own bread*”. As Calvin comments, “for we commonly see, that those who intrude themselves with forwardness into the affairs of others, make great disturbance, and give trouble to themselves and others...He does not mean, however, that every one shall *mind his own business* in such a way as that each one should live apart, having no care for others, but has merely in view to correct an idle levity, which makes men noisy bustlers in public, who ought to lead a quiet life in their own houses.” Read **Proverbs 26:17, 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, teach me to concentrate on keeping my own life in order first and strive to glorify You. May I not meddle in affairs of others.*

THURSDAY –Next we read in the text, “*...and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you...*” The Apostle here uses a word which in our fallen world is many times perceived as a “dirty” word if you will. It is the word “*work*”. He makes it even worse for these folks when he personalizes it by telling them to work with their “*own hands*”. In this context, it appears that many people were not working because, after all, “Jesus was coming”. It appears that Paul had to address this for some individuals were depending on others to live and be sustained and were not working but being lazy. They were neglecting work with what they probably thought was a pretty valid and pious excuse. The Scripture is clear on the matter of work and how it is honored. God Himself setting the example in His work of creation. Paul even goes as far as to say that those who would refuse to work should not eat. Read **2 Thessalonians 3:10**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *God, thank You for my daily bread and help me to work for it as You have commanded.*

FRIDAY –As we have seen yesterday it is commanded that we work. Work is not degrading but an honor to us as we follow the example of our creator. It was God who made man to work. We know there are circumstances where people are truly unable to work and must be cared for and should be cared for. But tragically much of the problem of people not working is that they are simply unwilling to work and are in the sin of laziness. Albert Barnes has said, “Idleness is one of the great evils of the heathen world in almost every country, and the parent of no small part of their vices. The effect of religion everywhere is to make men industrious; and every man, who is able, should feel himself under sacred obligation to be employed.” Read **Genesis 2:15, 3:19, Proverbs 12:11, 14:23, 21:25, 26:13-16**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank You God for the example and ability to work. Help me to be diligent and not lazy in my labor and honor it as You see fit.*

SATURDAY –In the context of this passage Paul is giving this instruction on how to work and live so, “*that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing*”. The integrity of Christians in obedience to the Word of God is the greatest of examples to those who are “*outside*” (unsaved). The world is noisy, meddling, militant, and lazy and Paul tells these Christians and us that we are to live the opposite in order to display the beauty of what it is to be in Christ and a new creature. Another blessing is that obedience to these truths will keep us from dependence and burden to others. I close with another quote from Barnes: “Learn hence, that it is the duty of a Christian so to live as not to be dependent on others, unless he is made so by events of divine Providence which he cannot foresee or control. No man should be dependent on others as the result of idle habits; of extravagance and improvidence; of the neglect of his own business, and of intermeddling with that of others. If by age, losses, infirmities, sickness, he be made dependent, he cannot be blamed, and he should not repine at his lot. One of the ways in which a Christian may always do good in society, and honour his religion, is by quiet and patient industry, and by showing that religion prompts to those habits of economy on which the happiness of society so much depends.” Read **Matthew 5:14-16**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *God, teach me to live and work to glorify You.*