

# God's Own Faithfulness

## 2 Thessalonians 3:1-15

### Introduction

In this scripture Paul warns us about the temptation to stop working for the kingdom when times get tough.

### Paul's Prayer Request (vv. 1-5)

- Paul starts this portion off differently than he has the other portions of the letter. He asks the Thessalonians to pray for him and his fellow workers. He asks that they pray that the Good News will continue to go out and that Paul and his companions will not be harmed by those who would reject the message.
- Paul goes on to express his confidence in the Thessalonians' ability to carry on and do the work they have been called to do.

### Paul's Warning against Idleness (vv. 6-15)

- Paul goes on to warn the Thessalonians against being idle and unwilling to work. This includes working to earn a living and working for the kingdom. He urged them to always be willing to work for their physical needs and for the needs of the kingdom. He further urges them not to associate with those who refuse to do their fair share of the work, but rather set an example for them so that they may be convicted.
- Warnings in the Bible against laziness - both physical and spiritual
  - Proverbs 15:19
  - Hebrews 6:12
  - Romans 12:11
  - Ecclesiastes 10:18
  - Proverbs 21:25-26

### Life Application

The old saying goes "An idle mind is the devil's playground". This is a very true statement. Refusing to work for a living causes unnecessary financial burden and can hurt relationships. When one stops working for the Kingdom, they open their minds to attack by the enemy. That is why it is so very important that we continue the work we have been called by God to do and the work we have been blessed with to earn our living by.

*All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.* - Proverbs 14:23 (NIV)

### Questions for Discussion and Meditation

- *How does idleness affect the church?*
- *How can intentional idleness affect families and relationships?*
- *What did Paul's prayer mean?*

### Preview of Next Week's Lesson