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PASTOR STEVE LUXA

Wealth From Work

Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

“²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.” (Ephesians 4:28, ESV)

“⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.” (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12, ESV)

Introduction

Work as a Moral Imperative

(See how we avoid work in “The Art of Not Working at Work” by *the Atlantic*, which you can access via tinyurl.com/the-art-of-not-working-at-work)

Wealth for our Needs (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)

(See also Genesis 2:15-17, Deuteronomy 8:17-18, Deuteronomy 25:4, and 1 Timothy 5:3-8 (esp. v.8))

Wealth for our Generosity (Ephesians 4:28)

St. Augustine: “Find out how much God has given you and take from it what you need: the remainder is needed by others.”

(See also 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, 1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Digging Deeper into Work

This week's passages:

Monday: Ephesians 4

Tuesday: 2 Thessalonians 3

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 5 (especially v. 8)

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 8

Friday: 2 Corinthians 9

Weekend: Review the most meaningful passages of the week.

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. **Read** the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. **Record** or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. **Reflect** and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. **Respond** by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word (“*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*” James 1:22).