

Sermon Handout
Dereliction of Duty
II Thessalonians 3:6-15

- I.** Addressing idle men in the church
- a. The “disorderly” = idleness
 - I Thess 5:14; II Thess 3:6, 7, 11
 - These are men who have abandoned their vocational calling
 - They are in spiritual danger and are a danger to the congregation
 - “not busy, but busybodies” v. 11
 - b. Paul’s instructions regarding this problem
 - i. Be quiet – I Thess 4:11; II Thess 3:12 that you may lack nothing 4:12
 - ii. Work – I Thess 4:11; II Thess 3:12 eat their own bread cf. v. 8
 - “eat your own bread” = make a living Gen 3:19; Amos 7:12
- II.** St. Paul’s example vv. 8-10
- Language of v. 8 echoes I Thess 2:9
- Do not set aside your calling & responsibility
 - Do not shift your own burdens to others
- The one who will not work shall not be fed.
- The Christian work ethic – we are to pursue our own vocations
- III.** The matter at hand – “some among you . . .” vv. 11-15
- a. Meddlers disrupting the congregation with idleness
 - b. “We command & exhort”
 - i. The idlers are commanded to quiet work
 - ii. The congregation is commanded to withdraw v. 6
 - c. These are brothers, not excommunicated men
 - i. “Every brother” v. 6
 - ii. Admonish “as a brother” vv. 14-15
 - d. Do not grow weary in seeking to restore them v. 13
 - i. Stand firm in your own vocations
 - ii. Help get the idle man back on track
 - e. Mark them out if they do not obey me (Paul)
 - i. Don’t subsidize their idleness
 - ii. Bring them to be ashamed
 - f. Their foolish behavior does not lead to excommunication
 - i. But fellowship is diminished vv. 6, 14
 - ii. Admonish them as brothers (Prov 27:6)