

## “Straight Talk”

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Sunday, September 5, 2021, 10:30 a.m.  
Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI  
Pastor Jonathan DeCou  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

**BIG IDEA:** Christ-followers are motivated to live responsibly.

*“Now we command and exhort such people  
by the Lord Jesus Christ  
to work quietly and provide for themselves.”  
2 Thessalonians 3:12 (CSB)*



### **Motivation comes from the Word.** (v6)

- **Work is an obligation not just a suggestion.** (v6, 10, 12)
- **God created us to work.**
- **God calls people who are busy at work.**



### **Motivation comes from proper examples.** (v7-10)

- **It’s not just what I say, it’s also what I do that counts.** (v7-10)
- **My work is my witness.** (v8, 9)



### **Motivation comes from mutual accountability.** (v11-15)

- **Paul calls out irresponsible believers.** (v11)
- **Paul corrects irresponsible believers.** (v12)
- **Paul commends responsible believers.** (v13)

- **Paul challenges all believers.** (v14-15)

**BIG IDEA:** Christ-followers are motivated to live responsibly.

**READ:** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

**THINK:** Contemplate Paul’s commands and exhortations to the Thessalonians, then ask yourself these questions: *What was your first paid job? How long or hard did you work at it? What did you do with your money? How might a misunderstanding of Paul’s earlier teaching (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3) have led to the problem of idleness? Why would Paul have seen this as serious problem **then** (see 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12) and **now** (see v6)? What is the model Paul leaves for the Thessalonians to follow and why (v7-13)? How does this square with other passages of Scripture where we read that Paul received financial gifts to further his ministry? What does all this have to do with Paul’s personal example of taking responsibility? How do you respond to the idea of “church discipline” as Paul outlines it here in this passage?*

**DO:** Are you idle, a busy-body, a worrywart or a workaholic? What is God’s message for you today?