

## 2 Thessalonians 3: Working Hard or Hardly Working?

### Acceptable sin

#### Context

- A church under pressure.
- Paul's confidence (3:1-5)

#### Paul's teaching on Idleness:

##### 1. A word to the church (vv.6-10).

- Keep away the idle (v.6).  
Why work is good:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
- Follow the right model (vv.7-10).

##### 2. A word to the idle (vv.11-13).

- Get a job.
- Pay your own bills.

##### 3. A word about the disobedient.

Three principles from Paul's approach:

- **Just:** It follows prior warning (v.14a).
- **Protective:** It safeguards the church (cf. 1 Cor 5:6-7).
- **Restorative:** It aims for repentance (v.15).

#### A word for us.

#### Five Questions to ask:

1. Is my heart led by my hard-working Lord?
2. Am I getting the diagnosis correct?
3. Do I have the right understanding of "work"?
4. Am I letting the perfect be the enemy of the good?
5. Am I asking God to change me?