

Work and Pray

Labor Day Weekend

Mark Beaird 2018

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, **12** so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Introduction

In our passage the Apostle Paul is characteristically straightforward when he says essentially, “Stay busy or become a busybody! In verse 11 he makes a joke, a wordplay in the Greek. Instead of the busyness of productive work (*ergazomai*), some have become busybodies (*periergazomai*). The problem with idle time is it leads to temptation. Too much idle time for King David—who should have been at war with his army—led to his fall into sin with Bathsheba. Too much idle time for us today leads to gossip and meddling in the affairs of others. This is probably why Paul chose those words in his first letter, “Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands” (1 Thessalonians 4:11).” - **Kerry Haynes on Nov 13, 2016**

The purpose of his admonitions become more and more clear as we reflect on the nature of human beings. Here, in these *admonitions*, there are words of caution to keep our lives on track.

I. Beware of Involvement in Unnecessary Pursuits (V.11.)

A. The goal is a life uncomplicated by turmoil and discord with others.

B. Our business is our business and their business is their business.

II. Beware of Depending on Others Instead of God (V.12).

A. Our lives should be an example to others, not a warning to others.

B. Depending on God is the path to peace and contentment.

Conclusion

F. B. Meyer said, don't waste your time waiting and longing for large opportunities which may never come. But faithfully handle the little things that are always claiming your attention. This echoes Pauls' *admonitions* that caution us to keep our lives on track. Focus and faithfulness is the key to being pleasing to God and to being an example to others.