

## 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

<sup>6</sup> In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you,

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<sup>8</sup> nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.

10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

<sup>11</sup> We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

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<sup>13</sup> And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

It is essential that all of us contribute - that all of us work.

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"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Genesis 2:15

They may have been lazy (and presuming on the community around them) because of an over-realized eschatology.

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"Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us saying that the Day of the Lord has already come."

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

# Americans at work

- 30% engaged at work
- 50% disengaged
- 20% actively disengaged

Our work facilitates our ministry.

#### Reflection ...

- How have you felt God's pleasure in your work?
- How are you seeing God at work in your work?
- How are you creating opportunities at your work?
  - For less fortunate
  - For people younger than yourself
- Are you consistently thinking of your work as something that facilitates your ministry?