

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Proverbs 6:6-11

Psalm 98

In righteousness will the Lord judge the world. (v9)

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler & guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness & not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil & labor we worked night & day, so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command & exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly & to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers & sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Use your study Bible's notes (& even the Wikipedia page) to determine who St. Paul's original intended audience is (you can ignore debates about Paul's authorship). How do his admonitions & exhortations apply to the internal lives of congregations or to the external world at large? How (or not) is he speaking about the contemporary American "welfare" or immigration situation? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Epistle_to_the_Thessalonians
2. How can St. Paul set himself up as an example to be followed? *See 1 Corinthians 11:1; Galatians 5:1-21, 6:17; Philippians 1:20, 2:5-13*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Consider *Proverbs 6:6-11* & *2 Thessalonians 3:1-17* together. What do you learn about the work to pass faith from generation to generation? How quickly does faithfulness disappear across our generations?
4. *1 & 2 Thessalonians* consider the guaranteed return of Jesus to judge the living & the dead. What does *Luke 17:7-10* add to your understanding of vv11-13 above?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Many congregations are quite busy places with committees, programs, meetings, & the like. However, they still struggle to pass faith from generation to generation. How can a congregation determine if its work is building faithfulness? (This question is as old as congregations.) How would a discipleship model like Pr. Greg Finke's "Joining Jesus on His Mission" / dwelling114.org or the NALC's Life-to-Life nalclifetolife.org help your congregation work at the right things? *V12* reminds us that our motivation is Jesus himself.
6. Jesus warns us not to get caught up in the "signs of the times" because he knows that we humans are so excitable & distractable. How do St. Paul's words 1) keep you focused on the main thing (Jesus) & 2) allow you to see the troubles of the day as opportunities for mercy & service in everyday life? What do you need to change about your mindset to realign this way?

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23rd Sunday after Pentecost

11.13.22

Series: Come Down Here

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Sitting Down

I already did my share, now I'm putting my feet up

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Brothers & sisters, do not be weary
in doing what is right. (v13)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Stand up & raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near. (*Luke 21:28*)

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