



MORE WORKING. LESS WHINING.

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Well, I love you. It's good to see you. We're finishing a book of the Bible today. If you've got a Bible, go to a book in the New Testament called Second Thessalonians Chapter three, the very end. This will actually be the 36th book of the Bible I preach and taught through. So thanks for joining me for that. And uh, then what we're gonna do is after Thanksgiving, just a little sneak preview, as we're heading into the holidays, we're gonna do a special sermon series, happily Never After with a question mark how to leave in Cleave. We're gonna talk about families, marriage, family dynamics, multi-generational family systems. There'll be a 45,000 word workbook. And, uh, it'd be a very special gift to give your in-laws for Christmas. You're welcome. Um, it'll be great, uh, for me. And so, uh, I'd love to have you join us. It's gonna be a great series. Uh, but today here's what we're dealing with in two Thessalonians three, six through 18, more working, less whining. And I'll start with a story. Uh, there was a gal online this week, her name was Brielle. And if you're watching Brielle, we love you so her for your tough week. But Brielle was a college grad, just graduated from college, got her first nine to five job. She was like in her early twenties, got home from one of her first days of work, complete and total nuclear meltdown on social media, crying, like mascara flowing, crying, oh, I can't, nine to five is crazy. How do people do this? I'm dying. There's no timeline for mental health. And I didn't get any me time today. I mean, she was just nuclear meltdown. First day on the job. Done, done, done, done. Uh, and so what she says is, quote, I don't have time for anything. That's why they pay you. Um, they're buying your time, Brielle. I love you sweetheart. Um, but so then what's happening now as well, a lot of people are commenting, older, mature guys are like, Hey, welcome to the big girl world. Uh, you know, it's, it's a job. Uh, welcome to reality, you know, congratulations on avoiding it this far. Um, and then, and then there were a whole bunch of younger people who were like, you gotta really protect your mental health. You need some me time. Well, you need a spa day. We understand girl. That's why I voted for Bernie Sanders. So there's this whole other group of people with their comments, okay? Um, and, and then there's this whole other, um, hashtag that's going along with it called the Lazy Girl Jobs. Have you seen this Lazy Girl jobs? And it's, it's young gals trying to figure out how can I work as little as possible from home in my pajamas and make enough money to buy time until a man with no discernment wants to marry me. So it's kind of a, that's, that's, that's the clinical definition of a lazy girl job. And so, so what we're gonna deal with today is work and just put a pin in this thought of work ethic for the next generation. And I want to set it up. So one of the themes that has been constant in first and second Thessalonians is the second coming of Jesus Christ. Okay? So they sent Paul a letter and he answers their questions. In First Thessalonians, they send him another letter. He answers those questions and Second Thessalonians, and the big idea is Jesus is returning. I wanna show you that in a moment. But here's the big idea. What do you do until Jesus returns go to work? Okay, we're gonna deal with that in a moment. We'll let all the 20 somethings just sort of get over their triggering and emotionally prepare themselves for what's to come. Uh, so here's what he says in First Thessalonians chapter one, verse 10, wait for his son from heaven, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come two 19 says, our Lord Jesus is coming. Uh, says in three 13, the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints, four 15 and 16, the coming of our Lord, the Lord himself will descend from heaven. Five two, the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. And 5 23, the coming of our Lord Jesus

Christ. Every chapter talks about the second coming of Jesus in First Thessalonians and second Thessalonians. Second Thessalonians one, eight, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, one 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified. Two, one, the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, two eight, the lawless one whom the Lord, uh, Jesus will kill with a breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. So what he's saying is the next big event in human history and the hope for all of humanity is the second coming of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. And so then in the middle, the question is, well, what do we do until Jesus comes back and he's gonna talk in Second Thessalonians three about making plans, going to work, having a job, getting stuff done. 'cause when Jesus comes back, he wants to see you busy. That's why for this series, I have my very special water bottle. Jesus is coming. Look busy. That's the big idea in two Thessalonians chapter three. He doesn't wanna return and see you laying in a hammock eating CBD gummies, uh, reading revelation, arguing over the rapture. He wants you to be doing. He wants when he comes back, he wants to find you at work. Some of you're new, it's gonna be like this for an hour. Um, okay, okay, so we'll jump right in. Here's what we should be doing until Jesus second coming. Two Thessalonians three, beginning of verse six. Now we command you. So this is an order and an instruction, brothers. So this is for the Christians in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother or any Christian who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition or the way of life that you receive from us. So let's talk about an idle person. An idle person is one of two things. They're either not working or they're not working enough. Okay? Not working at all or not working enough. I'll give you an example. Recently, um, I uh, was coming home from the airport. Young guy picked me up and, uh, Uber driver or something like that. And I say, Hey, tell me about your life. He's like, well, I drive this car. I said, well, what time do you get off? He said, well, every day there's a certain amount of money that I need to live. And as soon as I make that much money, I stop driving and working. I was like, you're single, aren't you? It's gonna be that way. There's no girl saying, I'm looking for a man that's gonna do the bare minimum and I'm going to saddle my wagon to that horse and I'm gonna trust him for my family. Idleness is either not working or not working enough. Uh, and so, uh, here's what happens if you don't work enough. Couple of things happen. Number one, some people choose to become a criminal and uh, they just become thieves and criminals. This is what we're seeing in our culture is, is just criminal activity up. Yeah. So, uh, the other night Gracer and I had date night and we got done with date night. I was like, Hey baby, any errands you wanna run? She's like, yeah, I'm gonna go to the drugstore. I mean, she's married to me so she needs medication, you know, so we're gonna the drugstore and uh, just a joke. And, uh, so we go to the drugstore and we walk in and I'm looking for the, I'm looking for the baskets and there's no baskets. So next thing you know, I'm following Gracer out. She's like, oh, I need this and I need that. And I was like, there's a lot of things that go with the woman. Uh, and so next thing I know, I'm carrying all these things and they're falling outta my hands. And I'm like, I'm gonna go find where the baskets are. So I go up to the front counter and there's a guy in his twenties and uh, I was like, do you guys have baskets? He's like, yeah, they're behind the counter. I was like, why are they behind the counter? He said, because the homeless guys come in, they fill 'em up with stuff and they walk out and they not only take the stuff, they take the basket, okay?

And I said, uh, I said, well, I'm not gonna do that. I need a basket. Um, and he said, yeah, corporate policy is we're not allowed to stop them or do anything and we don't have security. And he said, I'm so sick of just watching people walk in, get alcohol and toiletries and, you know, whatever they want, food and snacks. And he said, they just wave and walk out and don't pay and there's nothing we can do. He said, I thought at the very least I take away the basket so they can only steal what they could carry in their hands. I was like, good job. So I, so I got a basket from this guy and here's what he said. He said, this is what frustrates me. He said, if they take things and don't pay for it, it means we have to charge you more to cover the loss. I was like, okay, I get that. So we got a basket and we went shopping. But this is now happening across our country now major cities are closing down businesses at five o'clock are closing them forever. And altogether because of just organized thievery, particularly by young men just walking in, stealing things and walking out. Uh, my mom and dad near where they lived, uh, last year, there was, uh, a group of organized young men who were criminals. They would rent a box truck and they would go from store to store, cover their face with the masks, and uh, and then they would just steal and rob and then throw it in the back of the box truck and go to the next door. And because the police were only allowed to defend human life, not property, no one ever did anything. That's the world that we live in. When people become idle, they become criminal. And or what they rack up is massive personal and national debt if they're idle. Is this happening? Yes. So what we have is massive personal debt. Some of you have got massive, massive credit card debt and there's something called an interest rate. You should check into it right now. Your, your percentages are the same as hard money from the mafia. That's, that's where the margins are at today. And so we're seeing people go into massive personal debt with horrible interest rates, only making minimal payments. And they're learning that from government schools. And if you look to the government, they know absolutely nothing about finances and wealth and work. The average. So here's where the debt ratio is, the national debt for every man, woman, and child, we owe a hundred thousand dollars for every taxpayer we owe \$250,000. So you say, what does it mean? It means 40% of people don't pay any federal taxes. And some of you are young and you're like, I I like it when they give us money. Let, let me just, let's just do reality. Let's just do reality. So they're not giving you money, they're lending you your money. And the politicians that are giving it to you, are they old or young? Old, very old. Like, I would be a spring chicken politician. Okay? So they're gonna die and then they're gonna give the debt to you to pay off with interest. And so they're not giving you anything. They're giving you a future burden. That's the world that we live in. Our our national credit score was just downgraded. 'cause people even, even, you know, bad nations that lend us money are like, that's, that's a lot of spending. But when China's like, you know, they're not really for us. And so when they're trying to course correct us, uh, anyways, so anyways, number three. So number three, if you're idle and you're not working enough or working at all, another option you have is to become a socialist. Whole generation is doing this, right? Oh, we'll just be socialist. So you know what the difference is between a socialist and a thief? Yeah, me neither. Um, so, 'cause here's what a thief does. A thief says, you have money. I don't have money. I'm going to take it. A socialist says, well, I'll vote for them and they'll take it. All you're doing is just finding a legal way for someone to steal from someone else to give it to you. And, and some

of you are young and you're like, well, can't we just, can't we just share the money? No. If, if we don't all go to work, there's no money to share. And, and, and, and, and, and socialism. I hate just bringing it up. But I have to, you know, 'cause I'm going on vacation. I need to get it outta my system. So, um, in our country, if you're young, here's what you don't understand. There's a sliding scale for your taxes. Which means the more you make, the more they take. And somebody say, well that's right. No it's not. Here's God's, here's God's system. Everybody gives 10% gross, not net. That means the poor and the rich all give 10%. That is actually a very fair system, very fair system. Some of you're like, well, well what if they have a lot of money? Well then, then if they have more than they need, they can generously give out of the kindness of their heart. Okay? That's called tithes. 10% plus offerings. We live in a system that says 40% of people aren't contributing anything. So what we're going to do is squeeze the 60% to provide for the 40% and even the 40%, many of whom are working, they're working government jobs. So even if you don't believe in Jesus, believe in math, okay? This is not a system that is going to succeed. And what happens as well, uh, some people then show up in the church. And the these people that are moochers and freeloaders and takers, they show up in the church and they look for the people who are the caregivers in church? There's a higher percentage of nice people, okay? They're sweet and they're like, how? Jesus has been good to me. How can I be good to you? Jesus has helped me. How can I help you? Jesus has been generous to me. How can I be generous to you? Their heart as a caretaker is to love and to serve and to bless and to give. But if you get somebody who is idle, they then take advantage of that kind person. These are the people that are like, yeah, I don't have money. You have money. How about we share it? Uh, you have a car, my car broke down when you can pick me up or can I borrow your car? Next thing you know, they're living in your house and they're eating your food. Hey, this is what happens. I've been in church long enough. I've met these people. And so what he says is this. He's like, no, we're gonna deal with how to deal with these people. The fifth option is this. Let me just pick on the single guys 'cause I haven't done it yet and I'll get to the Swifties in about 15 minutes. Um, so, but um, but for the young guys, what happens to young men today is they're idle. They're not active, they're not launching, they're not responsible. So what are they doing living off their mother and voting for politicians to give them things? The difference between a boy and a man is this, boys take, men give. That's the difference. Okay, boys take, men give. So these are the young guys that live with their mother into their thirties. They're not launching or working. And their hope is to find a young woman who went to college and got a job and generated revenue and is looking for a little brother to be a lover. Okay? And statistically, I'll share it with you. Here we go. This is a crisis. Here's the New York Post. Today, over 7 million men of prime working age ages 25 to 54 are neither working nor looking for work. And now the men without work syndrome seems to be spreading 7 million men, not even trying to get a job. Hey, here's, I'll show you what it looks like. The next two. This is from the general social survey, which is considered kind of the gold standard for American behavior. Percentage of men with full employment ages 25 to 35. Just look from 1990 to our present day, less and less men working a full-time job. And let me just say this, if you're single, 40 hours a week is nothing, nothing. Here's the next one. A percentage of men without a college degree with full-time employment ages 25 to 35. It's catastrophic. That's the world in which we live. And uh, one of

the leading sociologists on this, uh, Bradford Wilcox, he's one of my favorites. He wrote an article that came out recently and he said, here's what's killing young men entering into the workforce launching and working. Dopamine hit. If you do something pleasurable from the front of your brain, you get a little drip called a dopamine hit. And it creates a little temporary satisfaction, euphoric and high. And so if you've got your phone and you're scrolling through social media, dopamine hit dopamine hit dopamine hit. If you're just watching videos, if you're playing video games, if you're looking at women, and if you do so while vaping or eating junk food, dopamine hit dopamine, hit dopamine, hit dopamine hit, you know what? That produces a dope. Okay? So share, share this with your son who didn't make it to church 'cause he was at home playing video games, eating taquitos. Um, and so what happens then is as a young man, you're not looking up to God, okay, what's your will for my life? And you're not looking out to your future, you're just living for that instantaneous dopamine hit, which means you become a dope with no future. And that's literally where we find ourselves generationally. Now that being said, here's what I tell, uh, my sons all the time. Just get started, get active. You're gonna get a 10 year head start. If you could stay outta debt, get married young, buy a house and get moving, you've got a 10 year headstart. Like this is an incredible time. If you are a Christian man or woman, but especially young man who just says, I wanna make a difference and I wanna have a future, lemme just tell you, get up in the morning, okay? Put pants on. Don't be that freaking guy wearing his pajamas to the grocery store. I'm gonna hit you with my cart. Like I can't handle it. Okay? Go get at least one full-time job, show up early, stay late and shut up. Okay? And then when they ask you, um, if you need anything, tell them you need more responsibility and see if you don't get a promotion. And then come to church and serving in kids' ministry and find a nice gal who's sane and, and marry her and make babies and feed them. Okay? There, there you go. I just gave you guys a 60 year plan. You could write it down. And so this was an issue 2000 years ago. 'cause a lot of people were like, Jesus is coming back. No need to work or no need to, you know, pay off your debt. That was 2000 years ago. Obviously they swing and miss a situation. So here's my concern for young men. One of the most haunting verses lemme just riff on work for a little bit since he's talking about the idol. One of the most haunting scriptures in the whole Bible is this to me, one Samuel two 12, the sons of Eli, he was like a pastor. It says, the sons of Eli were worthless men. I got three sons. That is one of the most haunting verses in the Bible to me. How many families would God look at right now and say, Hey Father, I I lemme talk to you about your sons. Yeah, their total cumulative impact on the earth is worthless. There is zero on the Richter scale of humanity other than fogging a mirror. They're not accomplishing much. Okay? And we, we need to own this. In addition, he says here, we command you in the name of the, of our Lord Jesus Christ, to not be idle. It's a command, it's not a suggestion, it's a command. And when we think about Jesus, um, here's what I want you to know. That the God of the Bible is a God who works in honors work. I'll prove it to you. Genesis one and two, God's divine design. Before sin enters the world, it says that God worked for how many days? Six days he worked, it says he created, and then one day took a day off he rested Sabbath day. The same word for work or created that God did is used throughout the rest of the Hebrew Old Testament to refer to people going to work and working a job. One way to literally translate it is God worked six days at his job and then he took a day off. Our God works. And our God

works six days a week and he sets in motion Exodus 20 to 10 commandments and elsewhere a seven day week, six days of work, one day of rest, we're in America. How many days off do we get? Two, which means we're already taking more than we're supposed to. If you're like, I can't handle five days a week, praise God, you're not a Hebrew, you know, you'd be dead. They work six days a week like God did when it came to founding our country. They couldn't decide, well do we take the Jewish Sabbath of Saturday or the Christian Sabbath? So they're like, let's take 'em both. And now there's a whole nother generation go. How about we reverse it? We get five days off and two days of work. No, I work six days a week. I work, I always have work six days a week. If you get an extra day, serve, volunteer, find something to do. In addition, Jesus, uh, Genesis two 15 says, uh, the Lord God took the man. So our first Father, Adam has created, put him in the Garden of Eden. Two magical four letter word work. For some of you, it isn't four letter word, but he, he made him to work. And so part of being a, an adult, especially an adult male, is working. God works. God made you, God made me, God made us to work. For those of you men who go to work, true or false, there's a deep profound satisfaction in getting up, going to work, pouring yourself out so you can go home and bless your family. Amen. It's awesome. It's awesome. All the dads are like, all that secret guys are like, I don't know. I'll pray about it. Okay, I'm gonna keep trying. And so when the Bible talks about our work, this includes paid and unpaid. Okay? Some of you have got a paid job. My first job, I was telling Grace on the way in, I was 10 years old, there was an older woman lived across the street and I was talking to her. She's like, Hey Mark, I can't push my lawnmower around anymore. I live on a hill. Could you cut my grass? I was like, yeah, I could do that. She's like, I'll pay you. I was like, I do things and get money. Like my whole world changed. Like this is a fantastic idea. So I'm cutting her grass while I've got massive asthma. So I can't see where I'm going. And I sound like Darth Vader's little boy. Like, but I'm cutting the grass baby. And I got not to brag, I got 10 bucks. And then, um, and then there was a few other old ladies in the neighborhood, really sweet. And they're like, Hey, could you cut our grass? Yes, I will. And next thing you know, I'm 10 and I've got alum cutting business in the profound sense of asthmatic, uh, breathing respiratory issues. Um, work concludes what you're paid for. How many of you do things that you're not paid for? Okay, mothers, do you work a full-time job? I think it's cute when a 20 something guy's like nine to five is killing me. Here's a baby, Right? Sweetheart, if you can't handle sitting at a desk for 40 hours, motherhood is gonna be like a cage fight, I'm just telling you. And so if you're a mom, you're a dad. If you're volunteering at a ministry or in the community, those are also considered your good works that are prepared in advance for you to do. And in the Bible, there's no distinction between sacred and secular work in the So Jesus Christ is Lord overall. And that means as long as you're doing it to glorify Jesus, it's worship. So that's why in the Bible you've got politicians and realtors and builders and artisans and musicians and kings, and you've got mothers and fathers and you've got ranchers and you've got fishermen. All these different trades are in the Bible. And they're all people that are serving God by doing good work. And here's the key. It's not what you do, it's who you do it for. That's the issue. Colossians 3 23 through 24, whatever you do, mechanic, plumber, architect, investment banker, right? Cook, chef, mom, dad, little league coach, whatever you do, work heartily. Ask for the Lord and not for men. You are serving the Lord Christ. And so what makes what we do worship is not

what we're doing, but who we're doing it for. And so for the Christian work is worship. I'm doing this out of love for Jesus. And that means that I want to do a good job. Even if I've got a bad boss, well, I'll tell you I'm gonna do bad work 'cause I got a bad boss. Jesus is like, I'm your boss. Like over your boss is your boss's boss. And if you're working for Jesus, do a good job. Because ultimately if you carry the name Christian, you're representing Christ. So that brings me to Jesus. Our God comes to the earth. And guess what he does? He gets a job just to me. It's always funny when there's always like progressive Christians are like, I think Jesus was a socialist. No, God came to earth and got a job. He got a job. You should get a job. Jesus comes to the earth and he lives, dies, rises, returns to heaven in about 33 years. The last three years of his life roughly would be his public ministry, preaching, teaching, casting out demons, performing miracles. The first 30 years he was working a job. He was a carpenter's son. And he went to work swinging a hammer with his dad. That means 90% of God's life on the earth was going to work chores as a little boy and jobs as a big man. Now, and here's the big idea. You can't be like Christ if you don't work. Some people are like, I just don't wanna work. I just wanna pray and fast and study the word and meet with the Lord. Well, the Lord would tell you, go get a job and he'll go to work with you and he'll meet with you there. Because when he was on the earth, he didn't just sit in the woods and drink herbal tea and enjoy the lotus position and find his inner centering. He got a hammer and he went to, he went to work and then he also paid his taxes. Amen. Okay, just something to pray about. Um, and so what this leads to following in the example of Jesus is something that a sociologist named Max Weber called the Protestant work ethic. And so he was surveying the success of America. Let me say this, America used to be a great country and, and it's at risk of no longer being a great country. Now it could be great, but it needs to return to a few things like personal responsibility and hard work and love, service, care and concern for others. And so what built this nation and the strongest economy in military, in the history of the world was what he called the Protestant work ethic. It's that every day God's people woke up and said, I work for Jesus Christ and I'm going to work hard today and I'm gonna work six days a week and I'm gonna do all that I can to glorify my God. And then I'll take a day off to be with my family and go to church and to enjoy the people and things that God has given me. And that created this sense of individual motivation, of sort of self resolution. I don't need the government to save me and my family. It's me and Jesus. And I'm gonna go earn my keep and I'm gonna carve my path that led to businesses and risk and flourishing and employment and economic success and lots of innovation. Without it, we don't exist. This is why, um, even Protestant parents started giving their children something really interesting called chores. Because see in the rest of the world, the goal was, uh, to to join the elite class, to be part of the Aris, the aristocratic ruling class and to be wealthy. And then guess what? Pay people to serve your children. The, the richer you are, the earlier people in your family get servants. And the Protestants decided, no, you can't be like Jesus by being served. You can only become like Jesus by serving. 'cause Jesus said, I didn't come to be served but to serve. And so the Bible has a lot of good things to say about serving and nothing good to say about idleness, which is waiting for someone else to serve you. So the Protestants started giving our children chores, teaching them to work and serve things like, here's your chore, here's your allowance. We're now training you to work up to be a responsible adult with a job and a

paycheck. That being said, this leads to something that'll be very controversial. Um, not that we haven't been controversial thus far, but there's one line in the New Testament in another book that the Apostle Paul quotes. And every time I read it and we put it on social media, it goes viral. Millions of views. Just reading this first, no comment. A whole bunch of young people are like, oh, it just triggers him. So we'll do it again. First Timothy five, eight. If anyone does not provide for his relatives, especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith in his worse than an unbeliever. So if you are a man, your family is your responsibility. Your responsibility. You can't be like, oh, I gotta vote for somebody that's gonna take care of 'em. God already voted for you. So you gotta do your job. And this is so counter-cultural but so helpful. So let me, lemme speak to the, how many of you're young men? I know a lot of you online, young guys are here, a lot of young guys online. So what God says in the Bible about young men, this is just a word for young men. God says in the Bible that young men are strong. It's what he says. He says, I write to you young men 'cause you're strong. That's not necessarily a good thing. A terrorist is strong. A pit bull is strong and so is bad Chinese food. It's all very strong, but it's not necessarily a blessing. And so what God wants, he wants to take the strength of a young man and direct it toward a purpose. And so what God first says is, okay, direct all of your masculine strength, all that testosterone and vigor and aggression and ambition that they call toxic masculinity at the school where people are educated beyond their intelligence and lie for a living. Just ignore all of that. Take all of that strength and now direct it toward godliness. Right? God, you're my father. Uh, I'm your son. I want to do what my father tells me to do. Take all that strength directed toward godliness. Then if you're a young man, you're like, I find girls interesting. You think to yourself, I would like to be with a girl. Great. We have something custom designed to fix this problem called marriage. And most women, if they're paying attention, don't wanna marry an unemployed guy who's idle. They wanna marry an employed guy who's active. So now what you've gotta do, you've gotta move outta your mom and dad's house. You gotta go get a job. You gotta pay your bills, you gotta pay down your debt, right? You gotta get a breath mint. You gotta be good at something other than video games. You gotta buy a shirt with buttons. You gotta figure out how to go from one to two eyebrows. You gotta get some stuff sequenced. You gotta, you gotta get this sequence. Now, once you do, you meet that nice girl. If she wants to marry you and her, her dad has any sense, he's gonna ask. If you've got a job and a place for her to live, and if you're gonna be able to feed her, you need to be able to say yes. And then if everything goes according to your plan, can't say too much. Roam a livestream. If you have a child, that's, that's how you know it's going according to plan. Uh, you have a child, guess what? That child needs somebody to take care of them. And what he's saying is, gentlemen, that's you. That's you, that's your wife. Those are your kids. That's your responsibility. And if you don't provide for them, your worse than an unbeliever. Don't quote me a verse. If you're not willing to work, pay your bills and pave your way, you're not a man. You're a boy who can shave. That's who you are. So what we do here is we build men up to bless women and children. That's what it means to be a man. You're not around real men unless the women and children are blessed because those men are around. Those men make the world a better place for women and children. Okay? So that was my introduction. So here, here we go. We're gonna, no, that was my introduction actually. Um, didn't mean to get so worked

up, I just do though, like I, ah, gosh, you know. Uh, so two Thessalonians three, seven, uh, we'll just read it fast through 15 for you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us because we were not idle when we were with you. Lemme say this, some pastors are idle. They take indoor jobs that don't require heavy lifting and primarily involve eating with people. Pastors should not be idle, nor did we eat anyone's bread. This is crazy without paying for it. Oh, this old book. That's crazy. Um, but with toil and labor, we worked day and night and we didn't post on social media how it was damaging to our mental health that we may not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have the right but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate for even when we were with you, we would give you this command. This is crazy. No one's running for office on this verse. By the way. If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. Eat. Amen. What does it mean to the Greek pastor? Mark, if anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. That's exactly what it means. I sound very loving. It's not loving to steal other people's stuff. Alright, uh, now such persons are, um, for we hear rather that some among you walk in idleness not busy at work, but busy bodies. We'll get into this. There are two kinds of people, people who are busy and people who are busy bodies, busy people have a lot going on in their own life. Busy bodies, metal meddle in other people's lives. Now, such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own what? Living what As for you brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person and have nothing to do with him. Amen. That he may not, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy. Warn him as a brother. Here we go. Lemme summarize this. 10 commands for Christians. Number one, Christians should set an example and be able to say, imitate us. The whole world has lost its mind. Has no idea what it's doing about work or money or family or sex or gender or parenting. It knows nothing about anything. And the Christians should be able to say, you know what? We have, uh, instructions from the Lord. We have an example from Jesus. Imitate us. That's what Paul says. This doesn't mean that we're perfect, but it means even when we're imperfect, we own it. We apologize and repent. We don't blame other people for our inability or unwillingness to take responsibility. Number two, uh, pay your way. He says, we didn't eat anyone's bread without paying for it. Pay your own way and don't just go into debt. The Bible says that the borrower is slave to the lender. And a lot of people are like, well, I I'm so glad we we ended slavery in America. Well, we created a new kind of slavery. It's called debt. And now the banks own you through the interest rates. Don't, don't, uh, don't expect someone else to pay your way. And don't go into debt to pay things that you cannot afford. Number three, Christians should work hard and be able to say, we were not idle. We worked night and day. If your, if God's people were to live according to God's principles, uh, people would be calling churches saying, Hey, we can't find anybody to hire. 'cause it's an issue right now. How many of you're a business owner? You can't find anybody that will show up to work sober two days in a row. It's a situation and it should get out that they should say, you know what? Those Christians, you know, we don't agree with 'em, but boy, we appreciate 'em because they've got some principles that they live by and a person that they live for. Maybe we should call the church, see if they've got anybody looking for a job. In addition, don't act like social justice warriors instead, work quietly and earn your own living. Social justice warriors don't work quietly. They work loudly and they're

all picketing and protesting and rioting, trying to get other people to pay their own living. And that is absolutely inexcusable and intolerable. I simply will not bend a knee to the cult of empathy that says that everybody deserves something. The Bible is very, very clear. You go to work and you earn your keep. You pave your path and you pay your way. And, and there is, we live in an incredible time of opportunity. I I was thinking about it the other day. I'll just rant a bit because I'm feeling it, but the other day I was sitting, uh, on the side of the road, there's a dude with a sign and it's the same sign now that I think about it, that I first saw a guy holding another state when my son was very low. My son was very low. We're sitting in my 1976 Silverado and there's dudes standing on the side of the road holding the sign. My little buddy, my son looks over, he is like, dad was the sign. Say, um, I said, the sign says, I'm not gonna lie. I need money for beer. There's a guy in his twenties, my son can't read. He's like, well dad, rule it on your window. Tell that guy if he wants beer, get a job, buy his own beer. So I did. I was like, Hey, hey man, my son, my son wanted to share something from his heart. You know, he's got a little, little ministry moment. Buy your own beer. You know, so, so I'm sitting in a, I'm sitting in a traffic light this week. I'm sitting at a traffic light again, right at the front of a massive shopping center. Same thing, dude in his twenties holding his sign. Not gonna lie. Need money for beer. Guess what? Every business in that shopping center has on the door. Now hiring. Now hiring. You could go in there, get a job, and on your way home, buy your own beer. That's right. We live in a day when we can't get people to work. That's right. And what Paul is saying is, God's people should not be like that. Don't be deceived. God will not be mocked. You will reap what you, so don't be conformed to the pattern of this world. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Amen. Just 'cause this is the world we live in. It doesn't matter because we don't live in the world. We live by the word. And God is very clear about how we're supposed to conduct ourselves as God's people and citizens in society. Yeah, that's right. Young people are leaving, older people are pretty excited. Okay, how about this one? Um, don't, number five don't be a burden by taking, but being a blessing by giving. And what happens in our day? Let's just be honest, in our day of addiction, decriminalization or legalization of hard drugs, some people have got very serious addictions and mental health issues. Even the state of Oregon, which decriminalized and then legalized hard drugs recently came out and the people said, we made a mistake. We wish we could undo what we've done. Oh, really? Fentanyl being legal isn't helpful. Huh? Who could have seen that coming? Only those who went to the government school didn't see that coming. Nonetheless, I digress. At the end of the day, there are people that have real, mental, emotional, spiritual problems and addictions. And what I would encourage you is give to organizations that specialize in helping those people. Don't just give money to those people. If you rule down your window, you're paying for drugs and alcohol, don't fund that. Give it to a Christian ministry. That lovingly helps people overcome addiction and launch back into society, doing meaningful, purposeful things with their life. And so God's people, we should be giving, not taking blessing, not burdening. Here's what he says as well. Very controversial. Number six, lazy people will get motivated by hunger. If anyone is not willing to eat, uh, to work, rather everybody's willing to eat, uh, if anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. There's a whole generation of young guys living with their mothers. Mom's like, well, I can't kick him out. He's gonna get hungry. Ta. That's the hope he wakes up on. He is

like, I'm hungry. Are you hungry enough to go to work? I'm not that hungry next day. How hungry are you? I'm getting close. Okay, good. We'll move in the right direction. One day he wakes up and he's gotta pull another notch in his belt. And he's like, no, I'm very, very hungry. Yeah. Okay, good, good. Go get a job. Pay your taxes, pay your tithe, take your money. Buy some food. Welcome to adulthood. Welcome to adulthood. This is what's so stupid. Um, a few years ago we told old generation of people, especially young people, young men, oh, just sit home on the couch and, uh, we're gonna, we're gonna put money in your account. No need to even go to the mailbox and get a check. I mean, you could burn a calorie. We don't risk that, you know? So instead we'll just put it in your account and then you just order DoorDash or GrubHub and they'll deliver it to your house. And, uh, we're sorry, you gotta get off the couch. But, uh, but someone else is gonna pay your way. And after, let's say a year of this, you've now just habituated and conditioned an entire generation of young men to be dependent. And let me say this, there is only slavery. Unless you pay your own way, you don't have freedom unless you pay your own way. And we've got this massive cultural crisis that is just in the beginning of unfolding. In addition, um, number seven, be busy. Don't be an ile busy body. Now someone who's busy doesn't have time to be a busy body. Did you hear about so-and-So did you read their Instagram? Did you see how they're ticking and talking? You're like, I don't know. I was working, I was working. Can I tell you my Taylor Swift story? Okay, thank you. Okay. So, um, recently Grace and I were shopping, or she needed to go return something into women's clothing store. And I went with her and I came right to the front door and I looked in and it was very girly. And I was like, I'm not going in. I I don't identify as a female, just so you guys, if you're wandering, I'm just gonna let you know. I don't identify as a female. So Grace is going, I'm like, honey, this is a very girly store. I'm not going in. There was a store down the way that had guy stuff. I'm like, I'm gonna go in there. Maybe they got the game on you. Come get me when you're done. So I walk into the store with the guy stuff and there's a couple of young gals, teens, their twenties working. They're very extroverted, very nice, very social, very fun. And, and they're talking, they're like, Hey, we love your shirt. I was like, oh, well thank you. They're like, what brand is that? We've never seen that brand. I said, oh, it's a Taylor Stitch. They got very excited. Oh, Oh, How did I not know that Taylor Swift is now making men's clothes? I was like, ah. So they're like, where did you order that? We need to get some Taylor Swift clothes for our boyfriends. My first thought was, any guy who will wear a Twi Taylor Swift shirt should be an ex-boyfriend. That's just my first thought. So anyways, I was like, no, I didn't say Taylor Swift. I said, Taylor Stitch. I'm like, oh, they look at me, I kid you not one looks at the other. And then they look at me, they're like, are you a swifty? I have boots. I have a beard. I'm in my fifties. I have a perfect re record of unblemished heterosexuality. Um, I I'm against pop music, um, and the color pink. And so, you know, just, I am not the target market. And so I was like, they looked like, are you swifty? I was like, I don't think so. They're like, do you know what a swifty is? I was like, I'll be real honest. I'm not sure. I said, would you like to know with all my heart? And so they're like, okay. There's this girl named Taylor Swift. She's really pretty. She has a lot of ex-boyfriends. We really identify with her. We follow her on social media. We like all of her posts. We go to all of her concerts. We travel around the country and we just celebrate her. I was like, yeah, I'm not a swifty. So for those of you young ladies, since we picked on the

young men and we believe in equality which is offending everyone at some point in a sermon. Let me ask the young women, who is Taylor Swift dating? Some would say Travis Kelsey. That's the wrong answer. Here's the right answer. Who caress? That's the right answer. Okay. That's the right answer. Okay. There's a ministry team standing by. Send your complaints to hello@realfaith.com. The delete ministry is happy to serve nonetheless, who caress what Taylor's doing. Care about what you're doing. Don't care about her love life. Get yourself a love life and don't wake up every day and try to figure out how to generate more revenue for her. Generate some revenue for you. That's the difference between being busy and being a busy body. Amen. Alright, number eight, set some boundaries. Warn him as a brother and burn some bridges. Have nothing to do with him. One of the moms over here just got delivered. Um, like, Hey man, no more money, no more calling me, no more bugging me, but you pay your bills. You can't stay at my house. Right? Hey, you're older than Jesus when he died in Rose. You need to leave the basement like you need. Like you, you gotta go post bunk bed, brother. You gotta, you gotta level up, Right? And for some it's, I have nothing to do with them, just like I'm done. I'm not paying any more bills. I'm not taking any more calls. I'm blocking you on social media. Like you gotta figure it out. This is your life. I got my own. And you have permission to live your life. And they have the responsibility to choose their own life. And then number eight, lazy entitled, Christians should be ashamed. That's right. And today, it's such a sick world. They wanna make everybody else feel bad. You should be ashamed. I don't have as much as I would like. Well then work more. That's right. Don't make me feel bad. You're wasting so much time that could be used to generate more revenue. That's right. My, you can't make me feel ashamed that you didn't work for something and you don't have it. I don't feel ashamed at all. You should. And then number 10, keep going. And do not grow weary in doing good. If you devote yourself, okay, I'm gonna love Jesus. I'm gonna work. I'm gonna pay my bills. I'm gonna serve at my church. I'm gonna take on my responsibilities. I'm gonna love my family. I'm gonna do what God's called me to do. Guess what's gonna happen? At some point, you're gonna grow weary in doing good. You're just be like, I'm tired, man. People at work aren't doing their job. And so I'm doing a bunch of extra to catch up for them. I go to the store and people are stealing. So I gotta pay more. And we call it inflation to cover the losses for the people that are stealing. I'm paying taxes to a government that is wasting my money to fund things that are against my God. You're just gonna wake up and you're gonna grow weary in doing good. So what he says is just keep going. Just keep doing what is writing good? And then he closes with this. Uh, now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you. There's the, there's the key. I Paul write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuine genuineness in every letter of mine. It is the way I write the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. So let me, let me explain this first. He says, if you just say, okay, God, I don't want to grow weary in doing good, what he says is, then the Lord will be with you. Okay? Jesus comes along and he is like, I'm here to help if you want to do the right thing. I want to help you succeed in doing the right thing. You want the Lord with you, not against you. Number two, he says, you'll have peace. This is peace with God. You're not arguing with God and fighting with God. You're agreeing with God and you're obeying God. Lord, I know what you say. I want to do it. Help me to do it. That's peace. And then he says that God will give you grace.

And the difference between what God has called you to do and what you can do requires grace to do it. You're gonna need God's help. I'll close this pastor, uh, one of my pastors, one of our overseers actually here at the church, uh, pastor Jimmy Evans is gonna come and preach again, uh, in March. But he's got a, a really great analogy that I like. And what he says is, he says, when, when you're disobeying God's word, right, you're disobeying God's word. It's like you're in a boat and you're rowing upstream against the current. You're just exhausted. And you're, you're just, you're expending all your energy to just remain stuck. And as soon as you take a break, you start to go backwards. Repentance and acknowledgement and recognition of sin that were for which Jesus Christ died. Repentance is literally turning the, the, the canoe or the boat around and it's saying, God, I wanna obey you. I wanna do what you say. And now all of a sudden it's like rowing downstream with the current. That's where he says, the Lord is with you. He's in your boat. There's peace. At least I know I'm going the right direction. And there's grace. My God is here to help because I'm trying to do what my God has asked me to do. And so what I would say, friends, is this, if you follow the way of this world, you are just going to spend your whole life rowing upstream against the will of God. And if you'll just repent and turn around, I know that God will get in your boat. And that ultimately, he will give you the grace to make the momentum that you are hoping for to the future that he has called you to. Okay, I'm gonna release the live stream at this point. Thank you for joining us online.