

# 2 Thessalonians 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

## Analysis

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**Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread—they that are such** (the idle busybodies) receive both **command** (parangellomen, παραγγέλλομεν, military order) and **exhort** (parakalōmen, παρακαλοῦμεν, encourage/entreat). **By our Lord Jesus Christ** (en Kyriō Iēsou Christō, ἐν Κυρίῳ Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ)—Christ's authority backs the instruction.

**That with quietness they work** (meta hēsychias ergazomenoi, μετὰ ἡσυχίας ἐργαζόμενοι)—stop meddling, settle down, focus on assigned tasks. **And eat their own bread** (ton heautōn arton esthiōsin, τὸν ἑαυτῶν ἄρτον ἐσθίωσιν)—earn their own food, stop mooching. Dignity comes from self-support, not dependence. Quiet, steady labor honors God more than spectacular idleness.

## Historical Context

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Jewish culture honored trades—rabbis were tentmakers, carpenters, farmers. Greeks and Romans despised manual labor as slavish. Paul's command reflects Hebrew, not Hellenistic, values. Christianity dignified labor as God-honoring, regardless of occupation's social status.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What 'quiet work' has God assigned you that you're neglecting for more visible activities?
2. How does financial independence through honest labor protect your Christian testimony?
3. In what areas are you dependent on others where you should be self-supporting?

## Interlinear Text

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τοῖς	δὲ	τοιούτοις	παραγγέλλομεν	καὶ	παρακαλοῦμεν			
G3588	Now	them that are such	we command	and	exhort			
	G1161	G5108	G3853	G2532	G3870			
διὰ	τοῦ	κυρίου	ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστου,	ἵνα	μετὰ	ἡσυχίας
by	G3588	Lord	our	Jesus	Christ	that	with	quietness
G1223		G2962	G2257	G2424	G5547	G2443	G3326	G2271
ἐργαζόμενοι	τὸν	ἑαυτῶν	ἄρτον	ἐσθίωσιν				
they work	G3588	their own	bread	and eat				
G2038		G1438	G740	G2068				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 4:28** (Parallel theme): Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

**1 Thessalonians 4:11** (Parallel theme): And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

**2 Thessalonians 3:8** (Parallel theme): Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

**Proverbs 17:1** (Parallel theme): Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.

**Ecclesiastes 4:6** (Parallel theme): Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1** (References Jesus): Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

**Luke 11:3** (Parallel theme): Give us day by day our daily bread.

**1 Timothy 2:2** (Parallel theme): For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.