

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

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

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

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 Χριστοῦ, ἵνα μετὰ ἡσυχίας
by G3588 Lord G2257 our G2424 Jesus G5547 Christ G2443 that G3326 with G2271 quietness
G1223 G2962 G2257 G2424 G5547 G2443 G3326 G2271

ἐργαζόμενοι τὸν ἑαυτῶν ἄρτον ἐσθίωσιν
they work G3588 their own G1438 bread G740 and eat G2068

Additional Cross-References

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.