

“A Call For Christian Commitment!”
2 Thessalonians 3:10-15

Introduction:

1. Commitment Is Not Something Very Popular Today!
 - At Work! Turnover Rate For 2006 Was Nearly 24%!
 - In Relationships! Nearly 10% Of Couples Living Together Are Unmarried! Of Those Who Are Married, Nearly 50% End Up In Divorce!
 - At Church! Many Do Not Become Members! Many Change Membership!
 - What Has Happened To Commitment?
2. When God Calls You To Be A Christian, He Calls You To Commitment!
 - To Jesus Christ, First & Foremost!
 - But There Are Other Areas Of Commitment As Well!
 - These Are Pointed Out To Us In 2 Thessalonians 2:10-15!
 - Last Looked At 2:6-10, Which Showed That There Was A Problem In The Church!
 - Not Just In Doctrine, But In Practice – Practical, Everyday Living! Very Important As Well!
 - It Seems As If Some Were Very Committed To What Was Going On Inside Their Church, That They Neglected Their Commitments Outside The Church!
 - They Became So Lazy & Unproductive In The World, That They Became A Burden On The Church!
 - So, Paul Reminds Them Of Some Responsibilities They Have As Christians!
 - Commitments To Their Christian Callings!
 - Find 3!

1. *The Call To Christian Fruitfulness!*

- 3:10-12 - “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. / For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. / Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread!”
- Even As Christians, They Had A Calling To Godly Work!
 - Not Just Within The Church – But Outside The Church!
 - A Call To Be Fruitful & Productive In Society – To Be The Best Christian Citizen You Could Be! Not To Be Lazy & Idle!
 - Principle Put Very Simply: “If Any Would Not Work, Neither Should He Eat!”
 - The Lesson Was This: “If There Is Ability, There Is A Responsibility!”
 - In Everything You Are Called To Be & To Do As A Christian!
- The Report Was Not Good!
 - There Were Some In The Church That Had The Ability To Work – Knew That It Was Their Responsibility To Work – But Refused To Obey!
 - They Were “Disorderly!”
 - Also In 3:6! “Out Of Rank” – “Out Of Step” With God’s Word!
 - They Showed Their “Disorderly Conduct” By:
 - By Idleness!
 - & By Interference!
 - They Liked To “Work The Crowd!”
 - To “Work Around!”
 - Minding Everyone Else’s Business But Their Own!
 - And Thinking That They Were Doing Something For The Church!
 - What Would The Report Be Of Us?
 - Too Busy With The Affairs Of The Church, That We Neglect Our Responsibilities Outside The Church?
 - Or, Too Busy With The Affairs Of The World, That We Neglect Our Responsibilities Inside The Church?
 - There Is To Be A Balance!
 - You Have Responsibilities In Both!
 - You Need To Be Committed To Both!

- Fruitfulness Outside The Church!
 - Ecclesiastes 9:10 - “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might!”
 - Colossians 3:23 - “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men!”
- Fruitfulness Inside The Church!
 - 1 Timothy 4:14-15 - “Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. / Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all!”
 - 1 Peter 4:10 - “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God!”
- The Resolution:
 - A Command & A Call!
 - You Have A Responsibility & An Opportunity To Obey!
 - Be A Committed Christian! To Your Calling!
 - To Your Work!
 - To Your Church!
 - To Your Family!
 - Matthew 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven!”

2. ***The Call To Christian Faithfulness!***

- 3:13 - “But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing!”
 - Written To Faithful, Active, Committed Christians!
- To Encourage The Faithful!
 - Don’t Become Discouraged!
 - At What Others Say About You & Your Work & Service!
 - At What Others May Be Getting At Your Expense!
 - But, Continue To Fulfill Your Responsibility & Calling!
 - “Be Not Weary – Spiritless – In Well Doing!”
 - Galatians 6:9 - “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not!”
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord!”
- The Example For The Faithful!
 - Hebrews 12:1-3 - “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, / Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. / For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds!”
 - Christ Himself!
 - He Is Your Example, Your Strength & Reward!
 - To The Faithful – Remain Faithful!
 - “Do Not Let A Few People Who Neglect Their Duty Keep You From Doing Yours! Never Grow Tired Of Doing What Is Right, Honorable, Excellent!” (Kistemaker)
- Be Committed To Your Calling!
 - To Be Faithful In The Work Of The Lord!

3. ***The Call To Christian Fellowship!***

- 3:14-15 - “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. / Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother!”
 - How Are Those Who Are Faithful Supposed To Deal With Those Who Are Unfaithful?
- Christian Fellowship Must Be Pure!
 - The Word Of God Is To Be Obeyed!
 - And When Some Will Not Obey, Something Must Be Done!

- To Keep The Fellowship Pure – Because This Is Christ’s Ultimate Goal For The Church! Ephesians 5:26-27 - “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, / That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish!”
- To Restore Unfaithful, Disorderly, Disobedient Members!
- How Do We Do This?
 - Identify The Unfaithful!
 - “Note” - “Put A Tag On That Person!”
 - After The Process Of Restoring That Person Fails – One On One / Etc! Matthew 18!
 - Ignore The Unfaithful!
 - Except To Call Them To Faithfulness!
 - “Have No Company!”
 - In Common, Casual Interaction!
 - Don’t Treat Them As If Nothing Is Wrong, As If Nothing Has Happened!
 - 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 - “I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: / Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. / But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat!”
- Why Do We Do This?
 - “That He May Be Ashamed!”
 - A “Guilt Trip!” – They Should Be Ashamed!
 - Its Not About Feelings Its About Faithfulness & Purity!
- Christian Fellowship Must Be Promoted!
 - In The Spirit Of Humility & Love!
 - Galatians 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted!”
 - 2 Timothy 2:24-25 - “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, / In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth!”
 - As A Warning! “Admonish!”
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:14 - “Warn The Unruly!”
 - Colossians 1:28 - “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus!”
- Be Committed To Your Calling To Your Church!
 - Be Committed To Its Purity!
 - Be Committed To Its People!

Conclusion:

1. Are You Committed To Your Christian Calling?
 - To Be Fruitful!
 - To Be Faithful!
 - To Be In Fellowship!

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