

# Non-productivity is Not a Kingdom Trait

It is taught in some places that Paul's warning to the Thessalonians<sup>1</sup> about idleness relates to those who had given up life and were expecting Jesus to return immediately. This is pure speculation.

Here's how Paul introduced the topic:

**2 Thessalonians 3:6** (AMPC) – *Now we charge you, brethren, in the name and on the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) that you withdraw and keep away from every brother (fellow believer) who is slack in the performance of duty and is disorderly, living as a shirker and not walking in accord with the traditions and instructions that you have received from us.*

Paul was referring to those who are out-of-line with his teaching. He and his team modelled<sup>2</sup> how believers were to live: “we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you”<sup>3</sup>.

He commanded that those who were not productive in life, earning a living,<sup>4</sup> were not to be given food from the local *ekklesia's* welfare system<sup>5</sup>. This food was for those who could not provide food for themselves. These were old widows<sup>6</sup> (>60 y.o.a<sup>7</sup>) as the younger ones were told to remarry so they could be supported by their new husbands and not be a burden on the welfare system.<sup>8</sup>

So, today, the same Kingdom principle is in place: **Every believer should be productive for the Kingdom.** This includes fulfilling their responsibilities to their family and to their nation. Kingdom citizens are always to be responsible as irresponsibility is based in self-centredness and laziness.

My instruction to those who are on government welfare has always been: **Make yourself productive for the nation by helping out as a volunteer.** If you are supported by the nation FOC (free-of-charge) so that you don't work for your income, then your responsibility is to contribute to the nation with your energy. Workers do this for a wage, so welfare recipients can do it for their pension.

Check out the Volunteering Australia website<sup>9</sup> or look for something to do locally. For example:

- Prepare food and serve at a soup kitchen.
- Raise money for the homeless to buy bedding.
- Start a business to wash the house widows of the elderly for free.
- Start a business to trim the hedges of the elderly for free.
- Volunteer to do reading support with K-4 children at the local primary school every day of the week.
- Sing at all the district retirement villages each week to entertain the residents.

**BTW: There is no retirement in the Kingdom.** Full-time employment may cease, but the Kingdom doesn't. Sons continually work on Kingdom assignments and activities<sup>10</sup> until they are no longer capable. This is until they are totally incapacitated or at their death.

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1 – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

2 – 2 Thessalonians 3:9

3 – 2 Thessalonians 3:7-8 (NKJV)

4 – 2 Thessalonians 3:12

5 – 2 Thessalonians 3:10

6 – Acts 6:1

7 – 1 Timothy 5:9

8 – 1 Timothy 5:14, 16

9 – [www.volunteeringaustralia.org](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org)

10 – 1 Timothy 5:10