



Today's study is titled "Don't Waste Your Life." In light of Jesus coming to earth, dying on the cross, and resurrecting for our salvation, and in light of His anticipated return to earth, we don't need to waste our lives on matters that aren't of eternal significance. As Paul wraps up the end of 2 Thessalonians, he speaks to the issue of idleness in the Christian life – in other words, wasting your life. With all the hope of Christmas and Christ's return, the last thing we need to do is waste time.

**Key Passage:** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Looking back at your notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most from the sermon?
2. How can the command in verse 6 to keep away from every brother "who is walking in idleness" prompt us to reflect on our own lives? What does it look like to be an idle Christian? When are we most tempted toward idleness?
3. In verses 7-10, how does Paul describe his, Silvanus, and Timothy's lives while they were with the Thessalonians? What do these verses teach us about personal responsibility and accountability in our approach to work?
4. Verse 11 addresses those who "walk in idleness." How does Paul describe these kinds of people? What is the connection between being idle and being a busybody? How can we avoid being a busybody and instead cultivate a positive atmosphere among our families, workplaces, and church?
5. What does it mean when Paul encourages us to "not grow weary in doing good" in verse 13? What is he implying? What does this say about the need for encouragement? How can you encourage those who are doing good in this season of celebration?
6. In verses 14-15, how does Paul advise us to handle those who are disobedient to God's Word? How can we balance accountability with compassion in our relationships?
7. In verse 18, Paul closes the letter similarly to how he started, highlighting God's grace. Despite his directness in this letter, what does this gracious ending say about Paul? How does this ending serve as a final encouragement to the Thessalonians? How can a deep understanding and reliance on God's grace influence our interactions with others, fostering forgiveness and compassion?
8. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on this week?