

Unit III. Fulfilling Our Obligations to God and Society
L11/May 10, 2026

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Genesis 2:15-25; Exodus 20:9; Nehemiah 6:3; John 5:17; 9:4; Acts 20:33-35; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; Ephesians 4:28
PRINT PASSAGES: Genesis 2:18; Exodus 20:9; John 5:17; 9:4; Acts 20:33-35; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

A Good Day's Work



WAKE UP!

neighbors, Cole. We cannot dislike them because of how they voted. That doesn't make them bad people. We vote as we please. They will



get a second chance to make things better at the midterm elections. You are into politics, so I know you will agree with me on that. Go down to the soup kitchen on Pacific Avenue. Take a friend with you. Come back and tell me how you feel.”

The next morning, Cole and Aria went to “Soup's On,” the Pacific Avenue soup kitchen. There was a GOP sticker on the window. “Why are we here?” Aria inquired. They walked in and were immediately greeted by Ms. Anna, who showed kindness and respect. Cole suddenly noticed that his Uncle Jason was eating there. He had been estranged from the family for months. Jason went over and spoke with him. “That's Uncle Jay. He comes here every day. We go looking for him if he's not here by a certain time,” one of the patrons commented. Cole was surprised to hear how these people cared for his uncle, and Uncle Jason seemed very happy.

“Well, Ms. Anna, these lines are long. Looks like you could use some help serving,” Cole said. He and Aria put on aprons and helped serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It was a long day, but it was a good day's work. It felt rewarding to help others, even if they were different. Cole now understood why God loves everybody and judges their hearts, not their party or their vote. He worked with his mom at her pantry, serving the farmers with a smile and a kind word.



WORD UP

Genesis 2:18; Exodus 20:9; John 5:17; 9:4; Acts 20:33-35; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

18 The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

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9 “Six days you shall labor and do all your work.”

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17 In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

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4 “As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”

.....

33 “I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

.....

6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” 11 We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. 12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

KEY VERSE:

[Paul said,] “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

(Acts 20:35)



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

WORK OUT

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THESE SCRIPTURES? After reading these five Scriptures, it is obvious that there is a theme about Christian work ethics. In the first Scripture, God made Adam a helper to work alongside him. For many, accomplishing a great deal of work is possible with someone who will encourage and support. Also, God realizes the significance of rest after a good day's work. Rest gives you the renewed energy to get up and continue the work.

God wants us to use our own hands and minds to work to acquire what we need. Do not *covet* (envy) what others have because you can have it too by working hard. By working hard, you can acquire enough to help people in need. Doing God's work should be the priority. Help others in need. Feed them. Clothe them.

God does not like idleness. He said, "Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth" (Proverbs 10:4). An example of this is the prodigal son. He was lazy. He squandered his entire inheritance and became poor. He had nothing. He was hungry—so hungry that he wanted to eat with the pigs for whom he was caring. Lazy hands make for poverty. Work hard so that you don't become a slave to debt. Work hard so that you are a lender and not a borrower. You can cheerfully lend or give to those less fortunate than you. It is better to give than to receive.

As we read these Scriptures, you may be wondering this: "I'm not an adult. I don't have a job. I don't have any money. How am I going to give?" Those are good questions. You may not be old enough for a tax-paying job, but you may get an allowance each week for doing chores. You may get paid for doing lawn work in the community. Now you have your own hard-earned money. Your hands were not idle. You worked and earned your reward. You can tithe and cheerfully give to the church. If a friend is in great need, you can help him or her.

INSIDE OUT



Respond to the following statements with either T (*true*) or F (*false*).

1. Jesus and His disciples accepted invitations, ate, and left without helping. _____
2. Jesus and His disciples paid for the food they ate at others' homes. _____
3. Paul and his coworkers worked and paid for what they needed because they wanted to be role models for us. (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12) _____
4. The idle and disruptive people are called busybodies. _____



It is better to give than to receive. Does giving always mean *giving* money? You can give in other ways. You can give your time to help someone (tutoring, helping a friend, and so forth), or spend time supporting and encouraging a friend. You might read your Bible or other good books to someone in the hospital or nursing home. That would be a good day's work.



STEPPING OUT!

This is your challenge for the week:

1. Give a presentation advocating for the rights and proper treatment of those who are poor. Include addressing poverty on a global and local scale. Pair up with one or two classmates to prepare and present your presentations to the class.
2. Work with the pastor to present a merged presentation to the church, based on #1. Be sure to include some action items.

Media Mission



Visit the site listed below to listen to the song "It's Working" by William Murphy; it is about sowing seeds. You are working when you sow seeds—but after a while, the seeds grow, and you reap from the good day's work of planting. Find other songs or poems related to today's lesson.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arzeR5WvpY>



Decode the message by figuring out which number is a code for a certain letter. Some letters have been decoded to get you started.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				9								8		26				7							

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