

FOR CHILDREN:

Try something a little different this week: Over the course of a few days make a list of as many things you can think of that were provided to you that you did not have to pay for (*for example: breakfast, lunch, dinner, bed, air conditioning, toys, books, pencils, sports equipment, your teachers, etc...*). There will be a lot! Then think about who paid for those things, or who gave them to you – even if they were gifts. Now, read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13.

There are a lot of things we enjoy that we didn't earn, and that can be okay because the people providing them to us love us very much and happy to provide them – Be sure to say "thank you!" But as we grow in age and in our love of Jesus, there comes a time when we recognize we can participate in the provision for our family (*both our home family and our church family*). It may be with money, or it can be with chores or service. You can talk it over with your family and especially in prayer with God. And rest assured, God will continue to provide for you, as long as you keep trusting in Him!

Weekly Affirmation:

**MY WORK IS AN ACT
OF WORSHIP!**

Weekly Memory Verse:

"But as for you, brothers and sisters,
do not grow weary of doing good."

2 Thessalonians 3:13

FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-9. Paul and the other missionaries had a right to be supported by the local church for the work they did in teaching and preaching. In this case, they chose not to accept any compensation because it was necessary to set a specific example for these young Christians. One aspect of maturing in Christ is following His example of sacrificing our rights at times if it helps our brother and sister to grow and remain strong spiritually. Read Romans 14:13-19 for more of this idea.

Spend some time in prayer this week to consider where and how the Lord may be guiding you to sacrifice some personal rights for the sake of helping your church family remain strong.

AUGUST 2025 GROWTH GOALS

- Read 1 & 2 Thessalonians.
- Watch the Bible Project video on 1 & 2 Thessalonians (*available on the website*).
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- Listen to or sing a hymn or praise song as part of your daily devotion time each week

FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read 2 Thess. 3:6-13. How should we understand the discipline of "keeping away" from a fellow Christian that is knowingly leading a "disorderly life"? The Greek doesn't mean giving someone the silent treatment, or not letting them attend assembly. Rather it carries the idea that the harmony of the familiar relationship is broken, there is a step back from closer fellowship for a time, which the other person initiated when he/she stopped listening to Christ's teaching and following His example. Yet, it is important that we understand (*and act accordingly*) that this person is not our enemy. There is a difference, read what bookends this section: 2 Thess. 3:1-5, 14-15. The real enemy is the evil one and those anti-Christian scoffers that are persecuting the church. But an offending brother/sister is still that – our brother/sister. So, when it comes to loving discipline, we must submit to the guidance of Holy Spirit, and remember that the goal is the restoration of God's family.