

"The Christian Work Ethic: We Work For Christ's Reputation" (Part 3)
2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

"Christianity, emphatically, does not make people lazy. It transforms lazy, half-hearted, unmotivated people into serious, joyful workers for God's glory." – David Mathis

*"I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down." (Proverbs 24:30-31).
"On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."
(1 Corinthians 15:10b)*

- Foundations of the Christian Work Ethic in our vocations and households:
 - Our work ethic worships Christ or confuses others about Christ: *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.... You are serving the Lord Christ."* (Colossians 3:23-24)
 - Everything that we have stewardship over (homes, cars, responsibilities at work) either shows our thankfulness to God or our entitlement to God's gifts. *"Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys."* (Proverbs 18:9; cf. Proverbs 24:30-34)
 - In Christ, as new creations, we have been designed to embrace hard work and give God the glory for the completion of it. *"I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."* (1 Corinthians 15:10b). *"Whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."* (1 Peter 4:11b)
 - Christians are to honor hard work by imitating and praising those who work hard. *"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching."* (1 Timothy 5:17; cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:7-8)
- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15:
 - Laziness is so opposite of the Christian worldview that Christians are not to be associated with laziness.
 - Hardwork and laziness will be imitated. Christians are to be an example of a unique Christian work ethic. Hard work for God's glory, not our own.
 - Paul fully embraced the God-glorifying discomforts of physical, spiritual, and emotional hard work (1 Thessalonians 2:9-12).
 - Christians do not create burdens, they relieve burdens by working hard. *"Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need."* (Ephesians 4:28)
 - We work hard to meet needs not to accumulate wealth (1 John 3:16-18).
 - We need to change if we have the Holy Spirit and are not working "heartily as for the Lord." (Colossians 3:23)
 - We are to warn those who are not working for the reputation of Christ!

Account Balance: \$75,062.53 August Balance: \$76,885.46	Weekly Budget: \$3,471 Monthly Budget: \$15,043
Total Giving: August 31	\$3,570
Total Giving: September 7	\$3,670
Total Giving: September 14	\$4,623
Total Giving: September 21	\$3,213
Total Giving: September 28	\$2,664
Total Giving for September:	\$17,740

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Each October, we, as a church body, collect monetary donations for the Senior Pastor in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month. Please see the October Newsletter for more information about this!

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer is TONIGHT, from 5:30-7pm. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body. Please consider joining us for a portion of this time or for the full time of prayer.

★**HARVEST PARTY/CHILI COOK-OFF:** Our Harvest Party is THIS Saturday, October 18th, starting at 5pm, here at the church! This will be an evening of fun for the whole family! There will be games and activities for the kids and a Chili Cook-Off for the adults! There are TWO sign-up lists on the table in the Entryway. One is to sign-up to participate in the Chili Cook-Off, the other one is to sign-up to bring a food item for dinner at the Harvest Party. Please make sure to sign-up today!

★**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Men, the Monthly Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, October 25th, at 7am, at the Big Apple Café — Log Pond location. If you plan on attending, please let Pastor Zach know (740)618-0739.

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Children's Ministry is in need of **FOUR** volunteers! If you are a Church Member and are interested in or have questions about serving in the Children's Ministry, please see Katie Sapp.

★**MEMBERS' MEETING:** We will be having a Members' Meeting in **TWO WEEKS**, on Sunday, October 26th, immediately following the worship service. At this meeting we will have a time of discussion for the proposed By-Law addition, as well as presenting the 2026 Church Budget. We will not be voting at this meeting, voting on these items will take place at the November Members' Meeting. This is an important meeting, if you are a Church Member, we encourage you to please mark your calendars and plan on staying for this meeting. This is an open meeting, meaning that even if you are not a Church Member, you are welcome to sit in as an observer for the meeting.

★**LEGACY PRACTICUM:** Legacy Practicum's next course will be "(Soteriology) - Salvation and the Christian Life" and begins on October 27th, from 6:00-9:00pm each Monday evening in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a nine week course studying all of what God did and what we did to receive Salvation from God through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. For more information about this course, please see the October Newsletter. If you are interested in participating in this course, please let Elder Richard know so that he can prepare a syllabus for you!

★**FRIENDSGIVING:** Our Annual Friendsgiving Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 15th, at 5:30pm, here at the church! Please mark your calendars to save the date and plan on joining us for this great time of food and fellowship!