

**OCF Small Groups:** *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

## FOUNDATIONS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

### 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

(Sunday, March 22)

1. On a scale from 1 (high anxiety) to 10 (blissfully peaceful), where would you rate your sense of God's peace right now? Explain.
2. In what ways are "the Lord of peace" and "the grace of our Lord" needed in your life right now (v.16; 18)?
3. Where in particular do you need group prayer and support?
4. How, in your own context, do you find 2 Thessalonians 3:13 especially encouraging?
5. Evidently, according to 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11, Paul addressed this problem of idleness while with them but now he has heard (even since re-addressing it in his first letter) that the problem continues.

In what ways can "walking in idleness" become an addictive and persistent habit?

What does that play on words ("not busy at work, but busybodies") rightly reveal about the dangers of idleness?

6. Paul describes his own work habits, holding them up as a model (vv. 7-10). How would your family, friends, and coworkers describe your personal work habits?

7. What specific changes do you need to make in your work habits, effective immediately?
  
8. What are the sins of idleness that the church faces today?
  
9. How should we address this issue in our own church?
  
10. Even as Paul commands forcefully, what repeated word in 2 Thessalonians 3: 6; 15 establishes a loving context for his message? What things can we learn here about church discipline?

*Note: It is generally agreed that Paul here recommends not excommunication but a refusal to mingle and spend time with such a brother, thereby affirming his wrongdoing.*

## **SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION**

Meditate on 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

## **PRAYER EXERCISE**

Pray for the Lord's peace, presence and grace on yourself and for the people of OCF. Pray for those in your life who don't know Jesus – that they might know the Lord of peace and experience the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.