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## Good Works

*By Bryan Trotter on March 29, 2021*

### **TODAY'S READING:** 2 Thessalonians 3

As I read 2 Thessalonians 3, I am surprised at how many times I see some form of the word "do." In my translation, I read it ten times in eighteen verses in this chapter about idleness. As I read scripture, I like to pay attention to the way it was written in addition to the meaning. The manner in which the author, in this case Paul, writes is important to how we interpret scripture.

When I think about idleness, I am reminded of a car sitting at a red light, specifically the car's engine. The car is on and the engine is idling, but it is not going anywhere. If we were to look at the engine, it would look busy, but it is not fulfilling its purpose to propel the vehicle. As I think about good works in context to being a Christian, I immediately tend to want to push back. However, we are called to do good works. Our salvation is not a result of good works, but good works are a sign of a follower of Christ. Paul exhorts the reader to not grow weary in doing good. Jesus told His followers to let their lights shine before men so others might see the good works and glorify God.

As believers, we can fill our time with busyness but never really accomplish anything for the Kingdom of God. For many reasons, we can fill our time with trivial, meaningless things that keep us busy and not with doing good works. Paul wrote that being a busybody is idle work. Often the best remedy for this is to step back to evaluate where we are idle in our lives.

We only get this one life. We never know when we will leave this earth and open our eyes to an eternity with our heavenly Father. Time is so precious. God is calling each of us to take the next step in our faith journey. As Paul writes in verse 3, God is faithful. What area of your life have you allowed to be idle? Where are you appearing busy but not fulfilling your purpose and calling in your life? Where is He calling you to be faithful and do good work? We only have this one life to live so let's not waste it sitting on idle.

### **TOMORROW'S READING:** Acts 19

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