

Taking Aim At Your Work
1 Thess.4:9-12
The Foundations of our Faith, pt. 15

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ turned upside down the entire social structure of the “Patron-Client” practice of Paul’s day.
- It was not enough to merely be rich or to be of a higher social class in the first century Roman Empire, you had to show it off and make your power known, publicly recognized and put on display for all to see!
- Why do you work? How do you work? Who do you work for?
- Paul says three things that challenges Christians to live another way in their world.

1. Love Genuinely, v.9-10

A. Love is basic but the culture of the world may have acceptable practices that are unloving to the core.

B. Paul emphasizes a family love in these verses that would take priority over Rome’s class hierarchy.

C. The Roman Empire was comprised generally of these classes:

1.) The Imperial household & the Patricians: the wealthy political class, about 5%.

2.) Plebians & Freedmen: (free Roman Citizens), about 60% of the people.

3.) Slaves, 35% of the population.

(There was a great gap between these classes and nearly impossible to cross from one to another.)

2. Labor Peacefully, v.11

- Rather than manipulating to show power, Christians were to make it their ambition to do three things that were contrary to the Roman world:
 - A. To Be Quiet
 - B. To Do Your Own business
 - C. To Work with your Own hands: manual work was looked down upon as being work done by the lower class, yet Paul gladly put himself into that class! (1 Thess.2:9; 2 Thess.3:7-12; 1 Cor.4:8-13).

3. Live Honorably, v.12

- The believers were not to be swept into (2 Thess.3:11):
 - A. Not walking disorderly (undisciplined and idle)
 - B. Not walking as busybodies (meddling in the affairs of others)

- Why do you work? Is it the source of our ultimate satisfaction, or a source of total frustration?
- How do you work? Is work your idol, or are you idle at work?
- Who you work for is the most important part of your work. Work for Jesus, He changes everything.