

Study to be Quiet
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1Thessalonians 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

In **2Timothy 2:15** We are commanded to Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Sometimes what we get as we read in a verse or two of scripture can be very different from what we learn when we truly do study what is really there.

When we read this command to “study to be quiet” one could be reminded of the Biblical command to be of few words; such as in

Ecclesiastes 5:2-3

2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice *is known* by multitude of words.

One might also be reminded of the many biblical commands to refrain from gossip:

Leviticus 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I *am* the LORD.

Proverb 18:8 The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Proverb 26:20 Where no wood is, *there* the fire goeth out: so where *there is* no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

Although these are wonderful and profitable things to be reminded of, this is not at all what this particular passage of scripture is referring to.

This passage of scripture is about God's desire and purpose for His children that we set a good example and enjoy economic prosperity.

My enthusiasm ran high in preparation for this message as I began to see where the Lord is taking us today in His Word. Biblical finances and economics is one of my favorite Bible subjects. When the Lord starts showing us truth on this subject, it is like following Indiana Jones on a treasure hunt.

Some of you are going to get a hold of what the Lord is teaching us today and He is going to change your life forever. Imagine God stepping in and ending years of financial struggle, going from crisis to crisis and never

quite having enough. This could be the day that all of that begins to change!

If I now have your attention, let's let the Word of God proceed to destroy some misconceptions and erroneous pre-conceived ideas and replace them with truth that will change your financial life for good.

I. Some people believe that it is a part of God's plan that at least some of His children live in poverty.

A. There are numerous scriptures that when taken out of context might lend one to assume such an error.

1. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:3** **Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

2. Without preaching an entirely different message on an entirely different subject, it suffices to say this verse is simply not about finances.

3. **Mark 14:7** **For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.**

4. **Proverb 22:1-2**

1 A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favor rather than silver and gold.

2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD *is* the maker of them all.

5. **Proverb 28:6** Better *is* the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than *he that is* perverse *in his* ways, though he *be* rich.

6. **Luke 21:1-4**

1 And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury.

2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.

3 And he said, **Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:**

4 **For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.**

7. If you only read these verses and others like them, you might come away with the idea that being poor is ok, even perhaps a good thing.

8. The truth of the matter is that being poor is not in itself wrong; however; once you are born again, in Church and a real student of the Word; staying poor is no longer ok because it means that you are not acting upon what God wants to teach you.

9. Just because pursuing riches instead of serving the Lord is horribly wrong and unwise, that does not mean that God wants you poor.

10. **Proverb 30:8** Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

11. God may not want you rich because of your inability to handle it; nearly every lottery winner is destroyed by all that money...but nowhere in the Bible does it tell us that God wants you to stay poor.

B. When you learn from the Word what causes poverty, the “poor but proud” mentality that you once may have had should begin to change:

1. **Proverb 10:4-5**

4 He becometh poor that dealeth *with* a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

5 He that gathereth in summer *is* a wise son: *but* he that sleepeth in harvest *is* a son that causeth shame.

2. **Jeremiah 5:4** Therefore I said, Surely these *are* poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, *nor* the judgment of their God.

3. **Proverb 6:9-11**

9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

10 *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelth, and thy want as an armed man.

4. **Proverb 23:21** For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe *a man* with rags.
5. **Proverb 28:19** He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain *persons* shall have poverty enough.
6. **Proverb 20:13** Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, *and* thou shalt be satisfied with bread.
7. On and on the scriptures go saying always the same thing.

Another misconception is about giving:

II. Doesn't God promise to bless us financially if we give?

A. Yes He does; and yes, you must learn to give.

1. First, you must learn to tithe.
2. **Leviticus 27:30** And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land, *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD's: *it is* holy unto the LORD.
3. When you keep the tithe (first tenth) which belongs to God, you are robbing God just like Malachi Chapter 3 says and as a result God will greatly limit your prosperity.

4. It is in God's Word; you can accept it or refuse it; you will simply reap the results of your choice.

Proverb 13:18 Poverty and shame *shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honored.*

5. Yes, God also expects you to become a cheerful giver over and above your bringing Him His tithe.

2Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

6. Again, you can accept it or refuse it; you will simply reap the results of your choice.

B. However, there are many other principles in play here besides tithing and giving.

1. Based on what we have just read from the Word of God; what if you have learned to tithe, but you still won't get your lazy butt out of bed and go to work every day?

2. Do you think the Lord is supposed to commend your laziness by prospering you anyway?

3. What if you tithe and give but you spend half the rest on lottery tickets?

Proverb 28:22 He that hasteth to be rich *hath* an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

4. What if you tithe but have not learned to be a proper servant like God's Word commands:

Ephesians 6:5-8

5 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.

5. Is God supposed to make your boss keep you and promote you even though you are undependable and give less than your best?

6. If you really want me to meddle, how about all those traffic tickets that have bought you years of high insurance rates?

7. I suppose if we took a vote, we would all like me to move on to the next point. (I know I've heard enough).

III. If God really does want to prosper His children, how does it work?

A. *This brings us back to our text verse:*

1Thessalonians 4:11-12

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

1. This section of text is about how to prosper, both as a good example to all and to always have plenty of everything you need.
2. Provided you have the laziness and the diligence and the proper character issues all dealt with, look at the kind of promise that comes when you combine right character, hard work and generous giving:
3. **2Corinthians 9:8** And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

B. *Now let's look at what is really commanded in our text verses today:*

1. And that ye **study**... philotimeomai
fil-ot-im-eh'-om-ahee

Middle voice from a compound of [G5384](#) and [G5092](#); to be *fond of honor*, that is, *emulous*

(*eager* or *earnest* to do something.): - labour, strive, study.

a. This command to study is not just studying to learn, it studying earnestly and striving in order to do or accomplish something!

b. Don't just study the Word of God so that you can quote scripture, study it so that you can do something and be what it says!

c. Let me give you an example: Jesus said in **Matthew 5:41** *And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.* The extra mile isn't about carrying a Roman soldier's pack; it's about YOU giving more on the job than is required of you so that when the bosses confer, they say; "Yeah, that Christian guy; he is the best worker we have; he is the first to arrive and the last to leave and he doesn't quit until he gets it right; No way we can afford to lose him!"

3. *And that ye study to be quiet...* heśuchazō
hay-soo-khad'-zo

From the same as [G2272](#); to *keep still* (intransitively), that is, *refrain* from labor, meddlesomeness or speech: - cease, hold peace, be quiet, rest.

a. This means study so you can rest or refrain from labor.

b. Remember this passage is about how to prosper and lack nothing; study so you will be able to make more than enough in six days so that you can rest on the seventh.

c. And...it is not just about studying your Bible; this congregation didn't have Bibles when Paul wrote this. God wants His children to be the best we can be at what we do and that takes education and skills.

c. **Matthew 11:29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

4. God says: study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands,

a. Study God's Word so you can apply it to your own business; the Bible is the best business textbook in the world!

b. Study so you can apply it properly to whatever your hands finds to do.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is*

no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

In Conclusion: The will of God is clear for every one of His children: That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

Who is going to capture the lost man's attention; the one who talks about Jesus but can't pay his bills or hold a job?

Or will I be the one who does pay his bills and he does hold a job and he does pay his debts and he does practice honesty and integrity and he does have a good place to live and a good car to drive and he does have good clothes to wear...and he does give Jesus the credit for it all?

This is what the Lord has for you. Yes, you must be teachable, yes, you must apply what you learn, and yes, you must always be a student of the Word and of your vocation in the world.

When Jesus died for you; He with His own blood paid your way out of hell. But the grave couldn't hold Him and He rose again. Our risen Savior has come back from the grave to make us joint heirs with Christ Himself. He did not make you a child of the King to leave you in poverty; here or in the life to come.

