



TEACHER: BETH SEIFERT

ONAOMI'S TABLE 2016

Day 18: Ephesians 6:5-9 Work at it with all your heart

Read Romans 13:1-7. Paul expounds further upon the command to submit here by including what type of relationship? Why does Paul say we should submit to these authorities? Look at verse 7. What “debts” must all be paid? Whom might you owe respect and honor to?

Read 1 Peter 2:18-21. Peter leaves no doubt as to which masters must be shown respect; all of them. Why does he say this? What example have we been given?

Read Colossians 3:22-24. Paul draws a distinction here in how we should obey earthly masters. What does he tell us our attitude should *not* be? What does he tell us our attitude *should* be? In what way should we work? Why should we do this? Who are we actually serving? Why should that motivate us?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. How should they seek to live? Why should they work hard? (Two reasons in verse 12)

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12. There was a group of people who were telling the Thessalonian believers that Jesus had already returned and they would all be taken to heaven with Him in short order. This was very discouraging for these believers who continued to suffer for their faith, wondering if they had been excluded from the promises of God. There were even those who refused to work, claiming that there was no point since Christ would be there to get them shortly. In light of this, who does Paul warn the believers to keep away from? What example did Paul set for them? If there are those who are not willing to work, what should also be withheld from them? What command and encouragement does Paul give here?

Paul very clearly gives directions that those who are able to work, should be working to earn their own living, not expecting others to provide for them. As you spend time with God today, ask yourself how you work. Do you work and do the bare minimum so you can get your paycheck and go home? Do you work with integrity? Do you work diligently, understanding that, even if your

job is “lowly” by human standards, you are not working for man but for God? If not, repent of that. Ask God to help you to understand the importance of working hard, for your benefit and for the benefit of those around you, who are watching you as a follower of Christ to see how you interact with others. Ask God to help you to know, always, that the work provided for you to earn a living is a gift from Him; be thankful for that gift and ask Him to help you to appreciate the gift given to you and to take it seriously, regardless of the tasks you are asked to accomplish.