

Do you have a favorite Labor Day tradition?

Do you wish you had more paid time off? Americans place a high value on work. We are the only industrialized nation with no PTO requirements from the government. Why do you think that is?

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:10

What do you think of this verse? How has this verse been used?

We're reading someone else's mail. Paul was writing to a church in Greece around 50AD about a particular people, in a specific time and place, with specific problems. What was the problem?

Read 1 Thess 4:16-17; 5:1-2

They were waiting for Jesus to return and some had believed he was already back or was coming back any minute.

What thoughts do you have about the end times and the Second Coming of Christ? Do you remember hearing predictions of the end times?

Read Acts 1:6-11

What does Jesus say about waiting for his return?

Read 2 Thess 3:6-15

Who is Paul speaking to? Believers in Thessalonica or all people in all societies?

The Greek word sometimes translated 'idle' literally means disruptive like a soldier breaking rank. Is Paul talking about laziness? Paul's Greek word for 'work' is the same used in

1Thess 5:12-18; Ephesians 2:10 and the same Jesus used in Matthew 5:16; John 4:12.

What kind of work is Paul and Jesus referring to? What does it mean that we'll do greater works than raising the dead or turning water to wine? Is there a work that is more important?

Read Micah 6:8

Is it possible Paul isn't talking about welfare or the homeless or those who don't have a job, but instead rebuking Christians who have stopped living their lives and doing the good works of Christ (loving your neighbor as yourself), because they believe Jesus is coming back to fix their problems?

How does your job affect your identity?

Read Ephesians 2:10

When our identity is in Christ, what kind of work were made to do?

Prayer:

God, remind us that every person has a story and our job is to hear them and love them. Remind us that the most important work of our lives will be how we love You and love our neighbors and give us the strength and wisdom to love well. In Christ's name, Amen.