

RESPOND (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the significant scriptures for you this week? (Write them out.)

WHY are those scriptures *significant to you* at this time in your life?

HOW can you practically apply what God spoke to you about this week? [Try to respond in terms of specific action steps, specific people, long-term plan.]

WHAT will be the time frame for your application?

(1) Start Date _____ (2) *Progress* Check Date(s) _____ (3) Finish Date _____

WHO I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: _____

Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church
(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Alex Alexander on April 8, 2018)

Series: **The Bible Doesn't Say That**

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

1. Why do we think it's true? Because it's a half-truth

READ 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 [Sermon verse is vs. 10]
Mark or highlight everything that stands out to you.

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰**For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.** ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly & to earn their own living.

^a 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 – Paul was writing here about the person who is lazy. Paul explained that when he and his companions were in Thessalonica, they worked hard, buying what then needed rather than becoming a financial burden to any of the believers. The rule they followed was, “*Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.*” There is a difference between leisure and laziness. Relaxation and recreation provide a necessary and much needed balance to our lives; when it is time to work, however, Christians should jump right in. We should make the most of our talent and time, doing all we can to provide for ourselves and our dependents. Rest when you should be resting, and work when you should be working.

^a Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,683

REFLECT Write your thoughts from 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12.

I.E. – This passage speaks to how I am to not be associated with other Christians who are not living responsibly AND that I am to take financial responsibility for my life. (Now write your observations and thoughts.)

READ the following passages from Proverbs.

Mark or highlight everything that stands out to you. You will then write your observations and thoughts below.

READ Proverbs 6:6-11 [Sermon verses are vs's. 10-11]

Mark or highlight everything that stands out to you.

⁶Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.

⁷Without having any chief, officer, or ruler,

⁸she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.

¹⁰**A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ¹¹and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.**

⁹How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

READ Proverbs 18:9

⁹ Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

READ Proverbs 26:13-16 [Sermon verse is vs. 15]

¹³ The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!”

¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed.

¹⁵ **The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.**

¹⁶ The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

REFLECT Write your thoughts from the above passages in Proverbs. I.E. **These passages speak very directly and clearly about the character of and effects upon a person who is lazy or who does not work to provide for themselves and their household. To me, Proverbs 26:13-14 means that a lazy person always has excuses as to why not to get up, take action, and get to work—and he never makes any progress in life—he just seems to go back and forth—getting nowhere and therefore his life has no positive or productive impact. (Now write your thoughts.)**

2. What does the Bible Really Say?

READ Luke 6:20-21, 24 [Sermon verses are vs’s. 20-21, 24]

Mark or highlight everything that stands out to you.

²⁰ **And He lifted up His eyes on His disciples, and said:**

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ **“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.**

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²² **“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!**

²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ **“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.**

REFLECT Write your thoughts from Luke 6:20-24.

I.E. – **From verses 20-21 –The Lord wants to be involved in satisfying the needs and consoling those who admit they are needy and come to Him.**

READ Luke 5:27-32 [Sermon verses are vs’s. 31, 32]

Mark or highlight everything that stands out to you.

²⁷ After this He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And He said to him, “*Follow Me.*” ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed Him.

²⁹ And Levi made Him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at His disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹ **And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.** ³² **I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”**

REFLECT Write your thoughts from Luke 5:27-32.

3. The truth: God always stands ready to help those who can't help themselves

READ Romans 5:3-8 [Sermon verses are vs’s. 6-8]

Mark or highlight everything that stands out to you.

³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

READ Ecclesiastes 7:3 in the following translations:

Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. (NLT)
Sorrow is better than laughter, for by the sadness of the countenance, the heart is made better and gains gladness. (The Amplified Bible)

REFLECT Write your thoughts from Romans 5:3-8 & Ecclesiastes 7:3 . I.E. – **God’s Word says that difficulties in life can have a “refining” and positive growth effect in my life. Believing that and trusting in Him during difficult circumstances – though they are not caused by Him and are just part of life – those things can be used by God to transform my life and to develop Christlikeness in my life.**
