

Buying In - To The Vision

October 8, 2006

Series on Vision 8 of 8

Nehemiah 2:17-18; 6:15

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

Intro: Perhaps the greatest temptation, when it comes to spiritual things, is to remain uninvolved...

- Aloof.
- **Aloof from the vision of our *families, companies, ministry of Paradise***
- Why - (when we keep our distance...)
 1. We are safe from ALL RISKS
 2. Free from ALL DANGERS
 3. Able to maintain a theoretical perspective on what happens.
- * One of the oldest & most common responses in church history

Quote - former president of Columbia University,
"I divide the world into **three categories**-
The **few who make things happen**...
The **many that watch** things happen...
The **majority** of those who **have no idea of what in the world is happening.**"

* How many of you have received a vision for your family, business, ministry during this series?

The Thessalonian church had been **crippled by those who backed away** from their responsibility, refused to work, and left the load in the hands of others.

I. Scriptural reminders about Involvement

A. By precept:- not a spectator sport, (there are no bleachers)

1. Mt 25:14-30 the parable of the talents (to use them for the kingdom)
2. 1 Cor. 15:58 We are always to "abound in the work of the Lord..."
3. Gal 6:6-9 we reap what we sow
4. 1 Tim. 6:10-12 we are to fight the good fight of faith
5. 1 Cor. 9:24-27 we are to run to win, keep our bodies under control
6. 1 Peter 4:7-11 fervent in our love, & resist the devil
7. Rev. 3:14-17 The Lord deplores neutrality (hot or cold)
8. Col. 3:23 whatever we do - done "heartily as unto the Lord"

Note: The **verbs** for a Christian should be **vivid & active!**

B. By example Heb. 12:1-3 (consider Jesus - His commitment to humanity in general; His involvement with individuals in particular) INCITMENTS TO

1. **Mk 10:45** Jesus' main objective!
"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."
 - * ALL of Jesus' activities took place in the shadow of the cross!
2. Jesus partial service record... (with His awareness of the cross)
 - When surrounded by disease & dying - He healed
 - When he encountered distressed & shepherd-less multitudes - He moved with compassion taught fed them
 - Found the feet of the disciples dirty- He washed them
 - When He faced the temptation of the Devil - He revisited him.
 - When He faced heresy & hypocrisy of the Pharisees - He rebuked them

- His prayer life never suffered, He would stay up late & rose up early... yet He never neglected fellowship with His Father in spite of His extensive involvement with people

* Think through **His life, His goals, and His intense single-minded commitment!**

* **NOW-** think through your life - your goals - your relationships - your commitment

* It is **easy** for us **to be comfortable** - & **be neutral** on **matters that call for action**

Indecisive regarding moral issues & irresponsible & lazy when it comes to **work load.**

* The Thessalonians had believed that Jesus was coming soon so many of them reasoned that there was NO NEED to work- or make long-range plans... resulting in people SPONGING off of those more materially prosperous.

II. Strong Exhortation to All Christians 2 Thes. 3:6-15

A. The Command - (3:6) to those living irresponsibly is strong & forthright (to brethren)

1. To "withdraw"- To retire; to retreat; to quit a company or place.
2. To those who play truant- skipping school.
3. Militarily - to be out of rank

Romans 16:17-18 "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

1 Cor 5:11 says not to eat with them.

B. The Example - (3:7-10) see the example Paul & his colleagues gave previously

1. Paul worked night & day - not to burden them (1Thes. 2:9)
2. He paid his own way (1 Cor 9:14) example no work no eat...

* Do you ask your kids, employees, disciples to do something that you don't do?

C. The Encouragement - (3:11-13) the other side of the idle body is the busybody

1. People with a lot of extra time & those who skip out on their responsibilities often resort to idle chatter.
2. 1 Tim. 5:13 links idleness with being a busybody

Note: There is a vast difference between putting your nose into someone's business & putting your heart into their problems.

3. Turning to the "who" that are HEAVILY involved with the cause of Christ, he encourages them NOT to grow weary. (3:12-13)

D. The Admonition - (3:14-15)

1. Take note of the disobedient ones - don't associate with him, but admonish him.

Conclusion: Don't take the safe seat- routine, mediocre, predictable, status quo easy chair life, but rather the challenge of the peaks of Christian commitment. Buy into the VISION.