

Church Together

A Church Has To Continue – At Any Cost!

22nd February 2026




Welcome

In today's Service we will be looking at: **2**

Thessalonians 3 v. 6 – 18

The theme for our service today is: **A Church Has To Continue – At Any Cost!**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Know That The Work We Do As Christians Helps The Church To Continue**



Call To Worship

Psalm 100 v. 1 - 5 NLT

Shout for joy to the Lord, O earth!

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the Lord is God!

He made us, and we are his.

We are his people, the sheep of

His pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love continues forever,

And his faithfulness continues to each generation.

Song Suggestion

We Have Come Into His House



Opening Prayer

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, we worship you, we give you thanks, and we praise you for your glory today.

Lord Jesus Christ, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us we pray for you are seated at the right hand of the Father therefore receive our prayers and praise this day we pray.

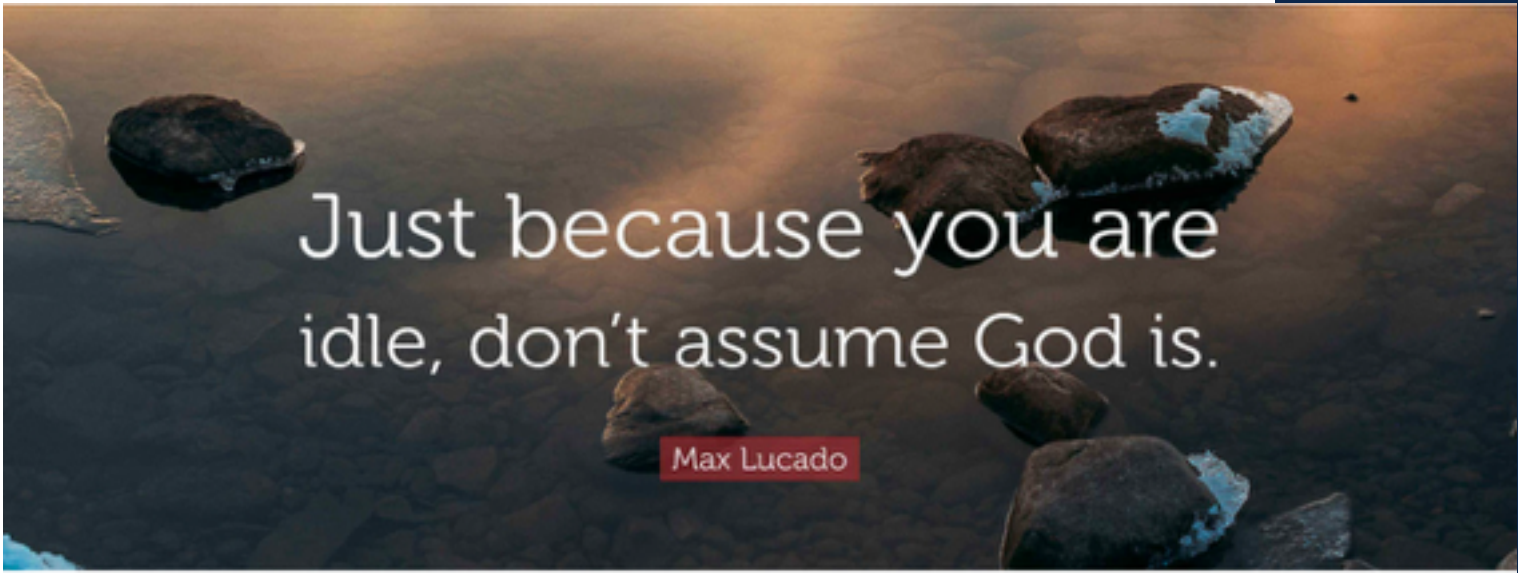
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Living God: in this building here at Salendine Nook that has been used to the sound of singing, where there have been baptisms and funerals, where people have come to be married, or to celebrate the birth of a child; this church, where some have wept, and some have been filled with joy, where people have struggled with the deep things of life, a place where some have prayed urgently, been stirred and changed; in this place where you have so often been with your people, be with us now today we pray.

You are a generous and bountiful God, all good things come from you and we want to say thank you for all that you have done, are doing, and will do in this place. May we be obedient to your will in order to serve you all the days of our lives.

We ask these things in the precious name of Jesus.

Amen



Just because you are
idle, don't assume God is.

Max Lucado

Bible Reading

2 Thessalonians 3 v. 6 – 18 NIV

Warning Against Idleness

6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, labouring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

11 We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. 12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. 13 And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good. 14 Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. 15 Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

Final Greetings

16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be 17 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing

mark in all my letters. This is how I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Song Suggestion

Bless The Lord, O My Soul



Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



Church Together

Thought

There are times in our Christian work when it would be easy to give up. When the pressure's on or when progress is slow, it can be tempting to stop struggling. For the early church in Jerusalem, with a fierce persecution against them as seen in **Acts 12 v. 1 - 5**, there was no question of giving in. James was dead, but they turned earnestly to prayer for Peter.

The church in Thessalonica was also under pressure and some, thinking that the Lord's return was imminent anyway, had given up work. Stern words from Paul followed. It was never a case of 'do as I say, not as I do' with Paul! He intended his life to be an example of how a Christian should live, always.

Paul described how he had always worked to pay his way, as we can see in **2 Thessalonians 3 v. 7, 8**. He was no sponger, living off other people's generosity, but he worked long hours to support himself, in addition to his teaching and preaching ministry.

Paul was scathing about those who chose to be idle:

'whoever refuses to work is not allowed to eat', **2**

Thessalonians 3 v. 10 tells us. In today's economic situation it is important to note that Paul is talking about wilful idleness, not enforced unemployment. There were obviously some Christians in Thessalonica who were refusing to work and were sponging off others.

Paul often comes across as a man of boundless energy,

journeying over hundreds of miles of mountainous country, preaching, teaching, working for his living and always praying. What is more, he is urging us to do the same!

In the middle of a busy modern life, we may well feel daunted at the prospect and feel quite exhausted just thinking about following Paul's example! As Paul travelled, he surely thought of the new Christians he had left behind, and he and his companions prayed for them as they walked the long miles.

Paul was undoubtedly an exceptional man. But he knew what his priorities were and organised his life accordingly. Firstly, he knew what work God had called him to – that of preaching the gospel – and this was his prime task. He took little account of his personal comfort and expected opposition.

Secondly, he knew that nothing could be accomplished without prayer – his own and that of others – and in his letters he urged the new believers to keep on praying. Is prayer a similar priority in our individual lives and in the life of our church? When Peter was in prison in **Acts 12 v. 4**, prayer from the church literally broke down barriers!

And thirdly, as we see today, Paul supported himself and was not a burden to others.

Both individually and as a church we need his priorities and sense of purpose. What has God called us to do? Paul expected each member of the various churches to use their God – given gifts to help build up the church and each other. Nearly 2000 years later, we are not exempt!

2 Thessalonians 3 v. 6 – 13 is about work. The New Testament takes work seriously. It seems that today our society does not take work seriously; it takes recompense

for work seriously! The Bible takes a much broader view...

FIRSTLY, THERE IS A BIBLICAL VIEW OF WORK

Before the days of the mechanical shovel, bulldozers and JCB. one old Irish workman's spade was so well used that it shone like stainless steel. Someone said to him: 'Well, Paddy, what will you do when you die and God asks you what you have done with your life? What you have to say for yourself?'

To this Paddy replied without a moment's hesitation: 'I think I'll just show him my shovel.'

The intention of God in his good creation was that work should be a blessing as seen in **Genesis 2 v. 15**. However, the sinful nature of humans has turned work into a burden as reflected in **Genesis 3 v. 19**.

What do individuals say about work:

It is one of the contradictions of our society that two - thirds of people are stressed out due to overwork, while one third are stressed due to underemployment and poverty. **Campbell Christie, general secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress.**

When I was at 50,000 feet, I sometimes used to wonder what was keeping me up there. I decided it was my monthly salary cheque. **Retired pilot of Concorde**

Work is of two kinds. The first involves altering the position of matter relative to the earth's surface; the other consists of telling other people to do so. One is disagreeable and badly paid; the other is agreeable and well paid.

Bertrand Russell

A system of work which declares that you are what you are worth in the marketplace is fundamentally contrary to the Kingdom of God. Where is there a place in economics for love? **Roy McCloughry**

2 Thessalonians was written by a Hebrew man to a Greek congregation. Greek and Roman civilisations were based on slavery. Two - thirds of the society were slaves. For the free, work was something to be avoided. However, to the Hebrew, work was the true essence of life. The Hebrews (and now the Christians) worshipped a God who worked. The Greek and Roman gods were predominantly gods of leisure.

You become what you worship!

SECONDLY, THERE IS A BIBLICAL VIEW OF TEACHING

Paul talks of two main channels of worship:

Through the eyes, by example (**v. 7 - 9**). The Bible has strong words for those who could work, paid or unpaid, but didn't or wouldn't. It is balanced by equally strong words urging care for those who have no breadwinner or are unable to work

Dr Wilfred Grenfell did much for the people of Labrador. He came to the John Hopkins Hospital in America to look for a head nurse who was willing to volunteer to go back to Labrador with him. This is the offer he made: 'If you want to have the time of your life, come with me and run a hospital next summer for the orphans of the Northland. There will not be a cent of money in it for you, and you will have to pay your own expenses. But I'll guarantee that you will feel a love for life you have never experienced. It's having the time of anyone's life to be in the service of Christ.' A nurse accepted the offer. When she got back to America she wrote: 'I never knew before that life was good for anything, but what I could get out of it. Now I know that the real fun lies in seeing how much one can put into life for others.'

Through the ears, by explanation **v. 6, 10**. 'We gave you

instructions for living.'

FINALLY, THERE IS A BIBLICAL VIEW OF DISCIPLINE

In 1875 people laughed at the idea of laying a telegraphic cable between England and America. A small team of scientists under Sir Charles Bright was certain that it could be done. The first cable broke when they were only four miles out; the second when they were 226 miles out. The next year they decided to try a new method. Two ships were to meet in the middle of the Atlantic. The two ends of the cable were to be joined there and then each ship was to sail for its own coast, laying out the cable. Twice the joint broke. A third time it broke, and 500 miles of cable were lost. Supplies gave out and the project had to be abandoned. Still another attempt failed. People began to say: 'Impossible!'

But, with determined perseverance, at last the expedition succeeded. On 5 August 1878 England spoke to America across the ocean.

People who are idle often interfere as referred to in **2 Thessalonians 3 v. 11**. Paul appealed to two things:

The conscience (**v. 12, 13**). Those who heard Paul's letters knew whether they were following the instructions that were given or not.

The community (**v. 14, 15**). Do not let those who take all from society and church, but give nothing back, get away with it.

This is tough language, but it is the language of the family — loving but disciplined as seen in **v. 15**.

WHATEVER YOU DO,
WORK HEARTILY,
AS FOR THE
LORD
AND NOT FOR MEN.

COLOSSIANS 3:23

Song Suggestion

The Lord's My Shepherd



Prayers Of Intercession

God our Father and Friend, we give thanks today for the wonderful gift of life, with all its joys and responsibilities, its experiences and its opportunities. We praise you for good health and daily food, for the shelter and care of our homes, the love and loyalty of our friends. We thank you for the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. For forgiveness and salvation, for his presence with us always and for the service into which he has called us. Help us today, we pray, to thank you not only with our lips, in praise and prayer, but also in our lives full of hope and love; for you and for each other.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our country, the local communities that we are part of. Give wisdom to those who lead and discernment to those who govern. Lord God, we pray that they will make the right choices for the good of all those concerned.

Loving Lord, we pray for all those who are facing tough choices at work or in their personal life at the moment. Surround them with your love, support them with your strength, console them with your comfort, and give them hope and courage beyond themselves, we pray.

We also this morning pray for the church, both here at Salendine Nook and wherever the church may be found. We pray for any big issues and decisions that we and others need to make at this time, we pray particularly for the many opportunities that you give to us to share the

Good News of Jesus with others. Take away any fear or hesitancy that we may have in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord of all.

Between us all Gracious Lord, we know of many people who are struggling today with illness, crises, big decisions and major changes in their lives. Loving God, we bring them before you this day, knowing that your care and loving compassion is greater than any that we could bring, help us though to show loving concern for them as we now pray, naming them in the stillness and quietness of our hearts.

Each of us this morning Lord, have things on our own mind, perhaps things we hesitate to mention to anyone else. Lord God, you understand us and know us totally, and we believe that you only want the very best outcomes for us. We offer ourselves to you now in the honesty of our own hearts.

These, Lord, are the prayers of your people this morning. We ask you to take each one of these prayers and answer them in your own time and in your own way. And in the meantime give us expectant and trusting hearts. For we ask all of these things in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Spend time with God to discover His divine gift in you. Refine it through training and consistent practice. And then serve it to your generation.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

Song Suggestion

Jesus Put This Song Into Our
Hearts



Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

Amen