

Aspire To Lead A Quiet Life

by Wayne Goff

“...But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,”

(1 Thessalonians 4:10b-11 NKJV)

“A quiet life” is a beautiful thing in the eyes of the Lord. It is a life that concentrates on one’s own work, that is productive, and that does not stir up strife and trouble. Some people seem not to be able to live that kind of a life. They are always complaining, criticizing others, and affecting their own happiness by their grumbling. Certainly Paul had these people in mind when he urged those at Thessalonica to both **increase** and **aspire** to lead a quiet life. A brief reading of 2 Thessalonians 3:11 would suggest there were too many troublemakers in that church.

Note the *contrast* in the statement “aspire — quiet.” Or as the KJV says: “strive — quiet.” God wants us to be *busy* about our *own business*, not *busy* about the *business of others*!

The Greek word [hēsuchazō] translated “quiet life” suggests silence, rest, and cessation of trouble. So variously in the New Testament, the idea is that of living peaceably with others, or to desist from a discussion. Surely we have all seen the time when someone is talking too much, or saying the wrong thing, and we just want them to **be quiet!**

We need to “...**seek peace and pursue it**” (Ps. 34:14). “In all labor there is profit, but **idle chatter** leads only to poverty” (Prov. 14:23). “Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife” (Prov. 17:1).

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence**” (1 Tim. 2:1–2).

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