

## “If Anyone Will Not Work...”

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by Wayne Goff

This year is a national election year and the results will go far to determine the fate of our nation. God is in control, and He will exalt that nation that pursues righteousness, and He will shame the nation that commits evil (Prov. 14:34). This article is not political in nature, but it addresses all of us who support our politicians. You see, the problem every four years is that Americans try to choose a national leader **who will give us what we want!** We should be choosing a leader who will give us what we need.

The kind of Socialism that advocates the distribution of goods evenly to all of society *unconditionally* is an unbiblical doctrine. The apostle Paul plainly stated to the church at Thessalonica: *“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat”* (2 Thess. 3:10).

Do not think that Paul or Jesus were hard-heartedly teaching that the weak, the sick, or the widows were to be left out! The church in the first century carefully took care of its own, and individual saints took care of their charges (see Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 5:3-5, 8-10; James 1:27). But neither did Jesus advocate the unconditional distribution of wealth! **If you did not work, then you did not eat!** Notice the context of this statement: *“For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread”* (vv. 11-12). When one is so lazy that he refuses to work and spends his time being a busybody in everyone else’s matters, then that person is behaving in a disorderly manner. So those able-bodied Americans today who simply want a socialistic hand-out because they are too lazy and unmotivated to work need to be **admonished, rebuked and motivated!**

Captain John Smith, when elected president of the Jamestown Colony (September, 1608), implemented many common sense regulations, one of which was “...he that will not work shall not eat...” (I wonder where he got that idea?!) “Under Smith’s leadership the death toll dropped dramatically, the fort was repaired, crops planted, a well dug, trees cut into clapboards, and products such as pitch, tar, and soap ash were produced for shipment back to England...” [National Park Service, “Historic Jamestowne,” internet]. America needs to be reminded of the success of this kind of leadership and elect someone who will help us all get back to work!

So as the election year in America progresses, and you carefully consider the candidates for leadership of this great country, ask yourself this simple question: “Do I want someone who will give me everything I want, or do I want someone who will restore to America a solid work ethic, a high moral standard, and the discipline and self-control government should establish?” Is there such a candidate? Honestly, at this point I do not know. But I know that’s what we **need**.

Readers, it hasn’t been that many years ago when our own President John F. Kennedy urged Americans: “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask rather what you can do for your country!” That plea should not be forgotten, and Americans should selflessly work toward that which is for the greater good in our country.

Pray that one day we will once again eliminate the get-rich-quick schemes of **The Lottery**, and teach men and women how to work in order to eat and to have to give to the needy (Eph. 4:28).

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