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MORE THAN WORDS

Text: 1st Thessalonians 4:11-12 PAGE 1840 PEW BIBLE

Easy access to an extended audience often magnifies two problems.

One is that there are those who think that having an opinion is the same as being informed. And, of course, it's not.

A second problem we see magnified on social media is the idea that expressing your opinion is the same as being involved. Ref: 1st Corinthians 4:20

Living a great life is more about what you do than it is about what you say — because the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power.

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life... (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12) Of all the things you set out to do with your life, this is priority one. Of all the things you want to do with your life, this goes above everything else.

You won't accidentally stumble backwards into a good life. It requires intention. It requires focus. It requires strategy.

Paul makes reference to three essential areas.

1. To Live A Quiet Life.

Make it your ambition to live a less turbulent lifestyle. Make it your ambition to live in peace and tranquility.

The reason why Paul said to make this your life-long ambition is because creating a calm and quiet and peaceful life takes focused effort.

That's because our natural tendency is not toward peace and tranquility. Our natural tendency is toward drama and chaos.

Seek peace and pursue it. (Psalm 34:14)

2. To Mind Your Own Business

People are, by and large, disproportionately interested in what's going on in other people's lives.

When Paul says "mind your own business," he's saying "stay out of other people's business." He's also saying "make sure you take care of your own business."

3. To Work With Your Hands.

When Paul says "to work with your hands," he's saying that it's up to you to do your fair share in each and every situation, without expecting the rest of the world to pick up your slack.

There's no greater evidence that someone's religion is real than to see it lived out, day-after-day-after-day. Ref: Luke 2:52; Galatians 6:5

Our mission involves more than setting a good example — but it never involves less.

Your Life Is Your Argument