

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

**TIMES OF SERVICES:**

*Sunday*  
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.  
 Worship ..... 10:00 A.M.  
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

*Wednesday:*  
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



*Weekly Bulletin*  
 September 29, 2024

**A Painful But Soul Saving Task**

*by Bryan Gibson*

Read every word of 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15:

(6) But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. (7) For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; (8) nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, (9) not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. (10) For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. (11) For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. (12) Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. (13) But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. (14) And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not

**Contact Information**

	<b>Mailing Address</b>	P.O. Box 680872 Prattville, AL 36067
	<b>Phone Numbers</b>	(334) 868-0801
	<b>E-Mail Address</b> <b>Web Address</b>	prattmont@gmail.com prattmontchurchofchrist.org

keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. (15) Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

To make the teaching in this text as clear as possible, let's break it down into five parts.

### **1. The Problem**

One specific problem is identified in v. 11: "there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies." They should have known better, both from Paul's teaching (v. 10), and his example (vv. 7-9). Disorderly conduct can include other sins, of course, which explains the more general warning given in v. 14: "if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle." If a brother in Christ refuses to obey the Lord, his brethren must take action (1 Corinthians 5 offers more on this subject, and we will refer to it a few times, too).

### **2. The Action to be Taken**

"Withdraw from" ("keep away"—NAS, ESV) is the command given in v. 6, an action further explained in v. 14: "...note that person and do not keep company with him." The language is similar in 1 Corinthians 5, perhaps even more pointed: Do not "keep company" or even "eat with such a person" (1 Corinthians 5: 9, 11). We simply cannot have the same relationship we had with them previously. The truth be told, if they've always known us to have strong convictions, they will understand **why** it has to be this way. And that conviction (not compromise) they see in us might just lead them back to the Lord.

### **3. The Spirit in Which This Action Should Be Taken**

"Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother" (v. 15). His soul is too precious to "keep away" entirely. Just make sure it's not a social call, but a call to repentance.

I still remember how my Mom handled a situation like this years ago, with a sister in Christ who was unfaithful to the Lord. She didn't invite this sister to the many social occasions she had at her house, but what she did do was write this lady every month for several years, telling her how much she loved her and wanted her to return to the Lord. You see, there is a way to take this strong action and still communicate our love for this brother or sister in Christ.

### **4. The Purpose of This Action**

"Do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed" (v. 14). Hard for the "ashamed" part to happen if we don't follow the first part. The unfaithful sister we just spoke of—she did come back to the Lord, and for what motivated her return, she specifically mentioned those letters she received from Mom. But the shame that leads to repentance is not the only purpose. "Do you not know a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" (1 Corinthians 5:6). Bad examples have a powerful influence, too—turn a blind eye and others may start behaving the same way, and on top of that, leave the impression with some that this is just not serious enough to do anything about. Yes, this is all done "that his spirit may be saved" (1 Corinthians 5:5), but his spirit is not the only one we should be concerned about.

### **5. How This Action Could be Avoided**

In this specific case, the lazy could get back to work and quit depending on others to take care of them—"we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread" (v. 12). But again, that's not the only commandment given through Jesus Christ. If we would all obey the Lord (v. 14), and repent when we don't, the action described above would never be necessary.