CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

APRIL 11 2026

Scripture Story: 1 Thessalonians 2:6, 9; 2 Thessalonians 3:8-12; 2 Corinthians 11; 1 Timothy 6:10-19; Colossians 1:25-29; Titus 2:6-8.

Commentary: *The Acts of the Apostles* (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapters 33, 34.

more than a job



Photo by Tompaul Wheeler

flashlight

"The indolent forfeit the invaluable experience gained by a faithful performance of the common duties of life. Not a few, but thousands of human beings exist only to consume the benefits which God in His mercy bestows upon them. . . . They forget that by trading wisely on the talents lent them they are to be producers as well as consumers. If they comprehended the work that the Lord desires them to do as His helping hand they would not shun responsibility" (*The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 353).

keytext

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

(1 Timothy 6:10, NIV)

what do you think?

Regarding your career goals for the future, put the following considerations in the order of their importance:

___ How much the job pays
___ How prestigious the job is considered to be
___ Your parents'/friends' opinion of what you should do
___ How much you think you would enjoy the job on a daily basis
___ Whether the job would conflict with your beliefs and standards
___ How many perks the job has (i.e., vacation time, free meals, travel, etc.)
___ How much you can help people and contribute to your community
___ What you believe God is calling you to do with your life

did you know?

Before he became a disciple of Christ, Paul had occupied a high position and was not dependent upon manual labor for support. But afterward, when he had used all his means in furthering the cause of Christ, he resorted at times to his trade to gain a livelihood. Especially was this the case when he labored in places where his motives might have been misunderstood."—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 347.



INTO THE STORY

"Nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 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. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.'

"We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat."

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

"But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

(2 Thessalonians 3:8-12; 1 Timothy 6:10-19, NIV)



OUT OF THE STORY

According to Paul, how important is staying usefully busy?

We are told to "earn the food [that you] eat." How can you do that? Do you think that everyone has to be working at a paying job, or are there other ways to contribute in different circumstances?

How do you think that money can be a root of evil in your own life?

What kinds of financial responsibilities do we have toward each other?

According to this passage, what is wealth? How does God see wealth?

What should our priorities be for our futures?

How can we balance a good work ethic with "love of money"?

punch lines

"Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us" **(Titus 2:6-8, NIV).**

"He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me" **(Colossians 1:28, 29, NIV).**

"We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else" **(1 Thessalonians 2:6, NIV).**

"Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying" **(2 Corinthians 11:29-31, NIV).**

"Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you" **(1 Thessalonians 2:9, NIV).**

further insight

"When in his service for the Master circumstances seemed to require it, [Paul] willingly labored at his trade. Nevertheless, he ever held himself ready to lay aside his secular work, in order to . . . improve a special opportunity to win souls to Jesus. His zeal and industry are a rebuke to indolence and desire for ease."

—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles,* pp. 354, 355

Sabbath

Read Colossians 1:28, 29.

In today's reading Paul describes what he is working for. Paul was a tentmaker by trade, and he worked hard at his job so that he could financially support himself and never be a burden on the church members. Regardless of his career that he was trained for, his passion was to tell others about Jesus. Paul took great pride in his hard work, but he used his career to further the gospel. Who would have thought that tent-making could be used for God? How could your career path be used for God?

Make a list of as many occupations as you can think of and next to each one write one idea of how God could use that occupation to help others or glorify Him. (Use the note pages in the back of your study guide.)

Sunday

In our Bible passages this week, we see that a good work ethic is incredibly important. We should stay productively busy and we should be contributing to our own keep. If you are not able to work while in school, there are ways to contribute other than financially until you are on your own. However, we also see that the "love of money" can cause a whole heap of problems. How can you keep the balance: working hard and making money while not loving money too much? What do you think is the right balance?

Today, make a budget of your personal expenses and your income. How can you make room for God in your monthly budget?

Monday

Read 1 Timothy 6:10.

The *Key Text* says that some people, "eager for money, have wandered from the faith." In what ways can money cause you to compromise your belief? Most of us immediately think of keeping the Sabbath, but there are other ways that our beliefs can be compromised for money. Consider these options, and write a Christian response you would give if you were enticed to do any of these.

1. Lie to your boss about a mistake you made: _____
2. Allow your supervisor to believe that you worked longer than you did: _____
   _____
3. Write someone else's essay for them:
   _____
4. Stop volunteering your time at church or a charity because work is too demanding:
   _____

Tuesday

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:9.

As Ellen White points out in the *Flashlight* section this week, we are not supposed to be simply consumers. In our society the newest gadgets, the latest fashions, the nicest cars, and the most up-to-date entertainment news are seen as signs of social success. But that is all consumption! God cares about our productivity. He created us each to contribute something unique and distinctive to the world.

Today, make a list of 25 unique things about you that many people might not know. Why did God give you these characteristics? (Use the note pages in the back of your study guide.)

Wednesday

Read Titus 2:6-8.

If you look at the *Punch Line* verses this week, you will see that Paul's focus was never on impressing other people around him with his excellent taste, wealth, or ability to compete. Instead, he worked hard so that he could show God to the people who had not yet met Him. In Titus 2:6-8 he encourages young people to work in such a way that other people will never be able to say anything against them.

For the following situations, make a note of how you would expect a Christian to act versus a non-Christian:

1. Someone ahead of this person in line yells at the cashier for being too slow.
2. A mistake turns out to be the right thing and this person's boss congratulates her for her good work.
3. This person entirely forgets about a major assignment due the next day.

Thursday

Read Proverbs 3:5, 6.

Choosing a career is an important decision. Not only will it affect your ability to support yourself, but it will also affect your day-to-day happiness. You must choose something that you will love to do so that the 40 or more hours a week you spend at it will be a joy, not drudgery. In what ways can you witness for God in your career choice? How can you help others? How can you do God's will? How much has God factored into your choice?

_____

_____

Friday

Read Romans 11:36.

God created you to be exactly who you are. He gave you your strengths and your abilities, as well as your personality, your looks, and your preferences. God created you to do something with the time He gave you. You have a destiny, and your career is a part of that destiny that God created. Have you talked to God about what He wants you to do with your life? Have you asked the One who designed you what He designed you for?

this week's reading*

The Acts of the Apostles (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapters 33, 34.

**Unlikely Leaders* is a special adaptation of *The Acts of the Apostles,* created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.