

BE A GIVER AND NOT A TAKER

Don't steal any longer. 28a (neg.)

- The command (*the one stealing*) suggests this is not simply an old lifestyle issue but still a problem for some. See Titus 2:9,10.
- Consider how prevalent theft was in NT times and today too.
- What type of thieving was Paul referring to most likely?

Work with your own hands. 28b (pos.)

- What does working / laboring with our own hands imply?
See Ecc. 9:10, Acts 20:33-35a, I Cor. 4:12, I Thess. 4:11,12
- Our work should be *good* (useful plus ethical), see in 2:10, and later in 6:8. Result = we will be without need, I Thess. 4:11,12.

Working will allow you to give to the needy. 28c (rationale)

- Though hard work in itself is necessary / beneficial to the one working (Col. 3:23,24, Phil. 4:17, II Cor. 9:6-11), the reason here for work is that it offers one the special opportunity to have the ability to give to those who have the need.
- Whose need is likely Paul's primarily concern here? Js. 2:15,16, I Jn. 3:17, Gal. 2:10, Rom. 15:25,26, II Cor. 8:4, 9:5,6, Gal. 6:10.
A key reason for us to work hard is . . . Acts 20:35b



Which direction
will you go if you
have not yet made
a decision up to
this point?