Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – April 15, 2018

***The Last Days!***  What happens next?

Life Lessons from Four Apostles

A Well-Ordered Life

Or, Providential Purposeful Productivity

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

Paul turns to a subject only hinted at in his first letter (1 Thess. 5:14). There he says to warn the “idle,” but a better translation is “unruly,” or “undisciplined.” It wasn’t just that some had stopped working, but had done so because they assumed that “The Day of the Lord” had come (2 Thess. 2:1, 2). Time otherwise spent earning a living and helping others was wasted on idle chatter and heresy. That brings another guidance on how to deal with such troublemakers and how to live a well-ordered, God-honoring, Last Days life.

***A Well-Ordered Life. . .***

***is a command from the call of Jesus.***  vv. 6a, 11, 12

Following Jesus means something. We are not free to live as we please and still pretend we are disciples. The call of Jesus includes a call to work and minding one’s own business. John 14:16

***means dealing wisely with the disorderly.***  vv. 6b, 13-15

The disorderly are avoided socially, but warned with the goal of restoring them to the community as productive, responsible members of God’s family who pull their own weight and follow sound teaching. Galatians 6:1; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

***is an exemplary, responsible, productive life.***  vv. 7-9

It is wrong to expect others to provide for us if we do nothing, and we should not unduly burden others. Also, responsible living is a model for others to see Jesus in us. Acts 20:31-35

***is founded upon a key societal principle.*** v. 10

We do have a debt to the poor and those who can’t take care of themselves. But people who can work, should work, for work is one expression of our being made in God’s image. Ephesians 4:28

***originates in and edifies God’s community of peace, authority, accountability, and grace.***  vv. 16-18

Peace comes only by applying the principles of grace, including a sense of community and submission to Jesus. Acts 2:42-47

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

***Last Days Life Lesson***

***Jesus’ call to discipleship is a call to a well-ordered life***

***characterized by a healthy self-sufficiency which is both accountable to others and a model of grace to them.***

***Going Deeper--For Growth Groups:***

1. List some things we must consider in balancing the command to work with the command to help the poor? Why is this balance tricky?

2. Why are the unruly dangerous to an assembly? List some things we must consider when are told to avoid the unruly. And when we hold them accountable. How can we do such things without “judging”?