**The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis**

**BOOK ONE:** THOUGHTS HELPFUL IN THE LIFE OF THE SOUL

**Chapter 18: The Example Set Us by the Holy Fathers**

**Definition and Scriptures:**

**Transgressor:** someone who transgresses; someone who violates a law or command. (Vocabulary.com)

[**Genesis 3:22-24**](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/78/eVerseID/80)**:** Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So, He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

[**Numbers 14:41**](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/4150/eVerseID/4150)**:** And [Moses](https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/sermon/id/2226/moses-servant-god.htm) said, “Now why do you transgress the command of the LORD? For this will not succeed.

[**Deuteronomy 17:2**](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/5367/eVerseID/5367)**:** “If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the LORD your God, in transgressing His covenant…

[**Romans 6:23**](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/28092/eVerseID/28092)**:** For the wages of [sin](https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/article/id/489/what-sin-is-does.htm) *is* death, but the gift of [God](https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/booklet/id/421/god-is-what.htm) *is* eternal life in Christ [Jesus](https://www.biblicaljesus.org/) our Lord.

**1 John 3:4:** Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

**Quote:**

“Today, he who is not a transgressor and who can bear patiently the duties which he has taken upon himself is considered great."

**Discussion:**

The Bible calls us to build our lives on God’s principles as seen in the Ten Commandments rather than to build our lives on reaching our maximum potential. What does it mean or look like to build our life on God’s principles rather than our own self-actualization?

God gives us work or responsibilities to help us stay focused on his principles and integrate his principles into our daily lives. The belief was that menial work keeps us humble before God. How does intellectual work result in being lukewarm towards God?