

Studies In Proverbs

Lesson 4

The Sin Of Laziness

God Intended For Man To Be Busy

- Adam and Eve were to be busy. Genesis 2:15; 3:19, 23
- Cain and Abel were busy. Genesis 4:2

God Called Those Who Were Busy

- Moses. Exodus 3:1-5, 10
- Peter and Andrew. Matthew 4:18-19
- Saul of Tarsus. Acts 9:1-5; 26:17-18

New Testament Stresses Importance Of Being Industrious

- Ephesians 4:28
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10-14

- Laziness is a Sin! NOTE: Lamentations 3:27, "*It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*"

Laziness Defined

- Slow to move or act; disinclined to work or exertion.
- "The state or quality of being lazy; indisposition to action or exertion; indolence; sluggishness; heaviness in motion; habitual sloth."

Laziness Defined

Laziness versus Idleness:

- Idleness: mere defect or cessation of action. Having no employment.
- Laziness: Sloth, with natural or HABITUAL disinclination to action. Apathy and inactivity in the practice of virtue.

Proverbs On Laziness

- Proverbs 6:6-11
- Proverbs 10:4-5, 26
- Proverbs 12:24, 27
- Proverbs 13:4
- Proverbs 14:23
- Proverbs 15:19
- Proverbs 18:9
- Proverbs 19:15, 24
- Proverbs 20:4
- Proverbs 21:25-26
- Proverbs 22:13
- Proverbs 24:30-34
- Proverbs 26:13-16
- Proverbs 28:19

Proverbs has as much to say about the diligent.

Characteristics of The Sluggard

Makes excuses:

- Too cold – "*The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold ...*" Proverbs 20:4
- Too risky – He says, "*there is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.*" Proverbs 22:13

Characteristics of The Sluggard

Spends too much time in bed.

- *"Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travaileth; and thy want as an armed man"* Proverbs 24:32-34
- *"As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed..."* Proverbs 26:14

Characteristics of The Sluggard

He is wasteful.

- *"The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious"* Proverbs 12:27

Characteristics of The Sluggard

He is long on talk, but short on action.

- *"In all labor there is profit; But the talk of the lips (tendeth) only to penury."* Proverbs 14:23 ASV
 - Penury: "State of extreme poverty or destitution"
- *"In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty."* Proverbs 14:23 NKJV

Characteristics of The Sluggard

He is often full of advice.

- *"The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason."* Proverbs 26:16

Some Consequences of Laziness.

Others are adversely affected.

- *"As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him"* Proverbs 10:26

Some Consequences of Laziness.

It causes Poverty.

- Proverbs 24:30-34, *"I went by the field of the sluggard, And by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, The face thereof was covered with nettles, And the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I beheld, and considered well; I saw, and received instruction: (Yet) a little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep; So shall thy poverty come as a robber, And thy want as an armed man."*
- *"By slothfulness the roof sinketh in; and through idleness of the hands the house leaketh"* Ecclesiastes 10:18

Some Consequences of Laziness.

It can destroy one's independence.

- *"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute"* Proverbs 12:24
- The lazy person doesn't deserve to eat!
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:10, *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, If any will not work, neither let him eat."*

Two Categories Of Laziness

Physical laziness.

- Being able to work but refusing to work. Contrast the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31:12-22, 24, 27

Spiritual laziness.

- God wants us to be spiritually active. Galatians 6:9-10; Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 6:10-12; Romans 12:11
- Spiritual laziness evidenced by neglecting to ...
 - Study. Ecclesiastes 12:12; 2 Peter 1:5
 - Spend time in prayer. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - Spend time in worship. Hebrews 10:25
 - Seek the lost. 2 Timothy 2:2
 - Redeem the time. Ephesians 5:16

Conclusion

- Song: "O land of rest, for thee I sigh! When will the moment come, When I shall lay my armor by And dwell in peace at home? We'll work 'till Jesus comes, We'll work 'till Jesus comes, We'll work 'till Jesus comes, And we'll be gathered home."