

Studies In Proverbs Lesson 4

The Sin Of Laziness

God Intended For Man To Be Busy

- Adam & Eve were to be busy. Genesis 2:15; 3:19,23
- Cain & 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; Galatians 1:13

NT Stresses Importance Of Being Industrious

- Ephesians 4:28
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10-14
- Laziness is a Sin!

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 vs. 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 15:19
- Proverbs 18:9
- Proverbs 19:15, 24
- Proverbs 20:4
- Proverbs 21:25
- Proverbs 22:13
- Proverbs 24:30-34
- Proverbs 26:13-16
- 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
 - Penury: “State of extreme poverty or destitution”

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.
 - “The field of the slothful” Proverbs 24:30-34
 - “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

Two Categories Of Laziness

- Physical laziness.
 - Being able to work but refusing to work. Contrast the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31:12-28
- 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

- “Oh land of rest, for thee I sigh, when will the moment come, When I can lay my burden down, and dwell in peace at home? We’ll work ‘till Jesus comes, we’ll work ‘till Jesus comes, Then we’ll be gathered home.”