

PROVERBS - LIVING BY THE WISDOM OF CHRIST

Lesson Seven - Work and Wealth

1. Laziness

A. What is a brief description of a lazy person?

Proverbs 21:25 The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. 26 All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.

B. From whom does the lazy person steal?

Proverbs 18:9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

Proverbs 12:27 The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.

Proverbs 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him.

Proverbs 29:21 If a man pampers his servant from youth, he will bring grief in the end.

Proverbs 24:30 I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; 31 thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. 32 I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- 34 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 19:15 Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry.

C. What else does Solomon tell us about the Lazy?

Proverbs 26:13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets!" ¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed. ¹⁵ The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth. ¹⁶ The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer discreetly.

Proverbs 20:4 A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.

Proverbs 12:11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.

Proverbs 15:19 The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

2. Diligence

A. What is a diligent person like?

Proverbs 12:27 The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.

Proverbs 14:23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 16:26 The laborer's appetite works for him; his hunger drives him on.

Proverbs 27:23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; ²⁴ for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. ²⁵ When the hay is removed and new growth

appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in, ²⁶ the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field. ²⁷ You will have plenty of goats' milk to feed you and your family and to nourish your servant girls.

Proverbs 24:27 Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.

Proverbs 10:5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

B. What is a diligent person's reward?

Proverbs 22:29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.

Proverbs 27:18 He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who looks after his master will be honored.

Proverbs 13:4 The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Proverbs 12:24 Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Proverbs 21:20 In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.

Proverbs 20:13 Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare.

Proverbs 26:19 He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty. ²⁰ A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

3. Unjust gain

A. What does God say about commerce and business?

Proverbs 16:11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD; all the weights in the bag are of his making.

Proverbs 11:1 The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

Proverbs 20:10 Differing weights and differing measures-- the LORD detests them both.

Proverbs 20:23 The LORD detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.

Proverbs 20:14 "It's no good, it's no good!" says the buyer; then off he goes and boasts about his purchase.

B. What will God do to those who seek dishonest gain?

Proverbs 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.

Proverbs 28:8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.

Proverbs 20:17 Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.

Proverbs 21:6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.