

Wait.

Part 8: Don't Wait (or "Don't Confuse Laziness with Waiting on God")

Various Scriptures

Sunday, December 2, 2012

INTRODUCTION:

Building a Biblical Work Ethic from Proverbs How To Please God and Live Well Through Hard Work:

i. Be Amazed at the Foolishness of Laziness

Proverbs 19:24

The sluggard buries his hand in the dish,
But will not even bring it back to his mouth.

Proverbs 20:4

The sluggard does not plow after the autumn,
So he begs during the harvest and has nothing.

Proverbs 21:25–26

The desire of the sluggard puts him to death,
For his hands refuse to work;
All day long he is craving,
While the righteous gives and does not hold back.

Proverbs 22:13

The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside;
I will be killed in the streets!"

Proverbs 24:30–34

I passed by the field of the sluggard
And by the vineyard of the man lacking sense,
And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles;
Its surface was covered with nettles,
And its stone wall was broken down.
When I saw, I reflected upon it;

I looked, *and* received instruction.
"A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to rest,"
Then your poverty will come *as* a robber
And your want like an armed man.

Proverbs 26:13–16
The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road!
A lion is in the open square!"
As the door turns on its hinges,
So *does* the sluggard on his bed.
The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
He is weary of bringing it to his mouth again.
The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes
Than seven men who can give a discreet answer.

II. Detect the Disguises of Laziness

Procrastination

Proverbs 24:27
Prepare your work outside
And make it ready for yourself in the field;
Afterwards, then, build your house.

Rushing

Proverbs 21:5
The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to advantage,
But everyone who is hasty *comes* surely to poverty.

Distractions

Proverbs 28:19
He who tills his land will have plenty of food,
But he who follows empty *pursuits* will have poverty in plenty.

Cheating

Proverbs 13:11
Wealth *obtained* by fraud dwindles,
But the one who gathers by labor increases *it*.

Talking

Proverbs 14:23
In all labor there is profit, But mere talk *leads* only to poverty.

Thinking About It

Proverbs 26:13

The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road!
A lion is in the open square!"

Get-Rich-Quick

Proverbs 12:11

He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,
But he who pursues worthless *things* lacks sense.

Proverbs 28:22

A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth
And does not know that want will come upon him.

III. Understand the Effects of Laziness

Poverty

Proverbs 6:6–11

Go to the ant, O sluggard,
Observe her ways and be wise,
Which, having no chief,
Officer or ruler,
Prepares her food in the summer
And gathers her provision in the harvest.
How long will you lie down, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep?
"A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to rest"—
Your poverty will come in like a vagabond
And your need like an armed man.

Proverbs 10:4

Poor is he who works with a negligent hand,
But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 14:23

In all labor there is profit,
But mere talk leads only to poverty.

Shame

Proverbs 10:5

He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely,
But he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.

Forced Labor

Proverbs 12:24

The hand of the diligent will rule,
But the slack hand will be put to forced labor.

Hunger

Proverbs 12:27

A lazy man does not roast his prey,
But the precious possession of a man is diligence.

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,
But the soul of the diligent is made fat.

Proverbs 19:15

Laziness casts into a deep sleep,
And an idle man will suffer hunger.

Destruction

Proverbs 18:9

He also who is slack in his work
Is brother to him who destroys.

Nothing

Proverbs 20:4

The sluggard does not plow after the autumn,
So he begs during the harvest and has nothing.

iv. Turn from Laziness Wherever You Find It

Proverbs 20:13

Do not love sleep, or you will become poor;
Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food.

Proverbs 27:23–27

Know well the condition of your flocks,
And pay attention to your herds;

For riches are not forever,
Nor does a crown endure to all generations.
When the grass disappears, the new growth is seen,
And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,
The lambs will be for your clothing,
And the goats will bring the price of a field,
And there will be goats' milk enough for your food,
For the food of your household,
And sustenance for your maidens.

v. Turn Away from Lazy People

Proverbs 10:26

Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
So is the lazy one to those who send him.

Proverbs 15:19

The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns,
But the path of the upright is a highway.

Proverbs 18:9 He also who is slack in his work
Is brother to him who destroys.

vi. Value the Results of Hard Work

Wealth

Proverbs 10:4

Poor is he who works with a negligent hand,
But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Plenty

Proverbs 12:11

He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,
But he who pursues worthless things lacks sense.

Success

Proverbs 12:14

A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words,
And the deeds of a man's hands will return to him.

Leadership

Proverbs 12:24

The hand of the diligent will rule,
But the slack hand will be put to forced labor.

Fulfilled Goals

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,
But the soul of the diligent is made fat.

Abundance

Proverbs 14:4

Where no oxen are, the manger is clean,
But much revenue comes by the strength of the ox.

Profit

Proverbs 14:23

In all labor there is profit,
But mere talk leads only to poverty.

Honor

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand before obscure men.

vii. Learn To Do the Hard Thing First

Proverbs 24:27

Prepare your work outside
And make it ready for yourself in the field;
Afterwards, then, build your house.

viii. Aspire To Be Diligent

Proverbs 12:11

He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,
But he who pursues worthless *things* lacks sense.

Proverbs 13:11

Wealth *obtained* by fraud dwindles, But the one who gathers by labor increases *it*.

Proverbs 14:23

In all labor there is profit,
But mere talk *leads* only to poverty.

Proverbs 28:19

He who tills his land will have plenty of food,
But he who follows empty *pursuits* will have poverty in plenty.

ix. Don't Rush

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to advantage,
But everyone who is hasty *comes* surely to poverty.

x. Finish What You Start

Proverbs 12:27

A lazy man does not roast his prey,
But the precious possession of a man *is* diligence.

xi. Work Theologically

Proverbs 16:3

Commit your works to the Lord
And your plans will be established.

Building a Biblical Work Ethic from the New Testament

Eight New Testament Work-Ethic Sermons:

i. Three Things You Need To Know About Work (Colossians 3:22-24):

-For Whom do you work?

-How do you work?

-Why do you work?

II. Thirteen Aspects of Your Relationship to the Body of Christ Requiring Diligence (Romans 12:9-13):

III. The Stewardship of Opportunity (Matthew 25:29):

- Who gave you what you have?

- What are you doing with it?

IV. If You Are Lazy in Your Affections for God, You Run the Risk of Being Rejected by Him (Revelation 3:16):

**V. The World Is Watching - How Are You Working?
(1 Thessalonians 4:11)**

VI. Mooching and Working (2 Thessalonians 3:10-13):

- Real-life consequence

- Really lazy conduct

- Reasonable command

vii. A Marathoner's Ethic (Hebrews 12:1):

- Remember those who have gone before
- Repent of the things that drag you down
- Run with endurance the race God has for your life

viii. We Will Have Rest When We Die - Living Urgently in View of Eternity (1 Corinthians 15:58):

- Be a rock of conviction
- Be tireless in your labor
- Be mindful of your reward