

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The Diligent & the Slothful

Proverbs on The Diligent & the Slothful

INTRODUCTION:

In our study, the lazy are identified as the slothful, a sluggard, and those with a slack hand (**12:27, 13:4, 10:4**). **Proverbs 14:4** states the principle that energy and means must be expended before one can gain. The diligent know this and act wisely, while the lazy remain idle and suffer the consequences. Though written many years ago, these proverbs are equally needed in our day.

I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- A. The diligent keep and benefit from what they acquire, while the slothful lose what they gain before enjoying its intended benefits (**Prov. 12:27, 19:24, 26:15**).
- B. The diligent are motivated (**16:26**).
- C. The sluggard moves, but never progresses (**26:14**).
- D. The blessed diligent are the skillful diligent (**22:29, 24:27, 12:11, 28:19, 13:11, 21:5**).
- E. The sluggard sees only the reasons for not working (**20:4, 22:13, 26:13, 15:19, 26:16**).
- F. Laziness is kin to destruction (**18:9**).

II. RESULTS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

- A. The diligent become rich - the slothful become poor (**10:4, 19:15, 20:13, 24:30-34, 14:23**).
- B. The diligent become rulers - the slothful become slaves (**12:24**).
- C. The diligent is filled - the sluggard keeps desiring (**13:4, 21:25**).

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III. AFFECTS ON OTHERS

- A. A lazy messenger is an irritating annoyance to the one who sends him (**10:26**).
- B. The diligent's household will prosper (**27:23-27**).

Questions for Proverbs about the Diligent & the Slothful

1. What two illustrations show that the slothful may have before him blessings, yet never be blessed?
2. What motivates the diligent?

What does this imply about the lazy person?

3. To what is the movement of the lazy compared ?

4. What **two** proverbs illustrate the principle that the blessed diligent are not just active?

5. What **three** things do the lazy see that impedes their work or progress?

6. How is slack work kin to a destroyer?

7. Slothfulness casteth into a _____, and leads to _____.

8. What **two** things did the wise man see when he looked at the sluggard's vineyard?

9. What did the wise man conclude from this observation?

10. What principle does the diligent know that causes him to remain diligent?

11. Why does the desire of the sluggard kill him?

12.Describe the annoyance of a slothful messenger to the one who sends him?

13. Who prospers besides the one who manifests diligence?

Thought Question: Given the principles about each presented in the Proverbs, how can we encourage diligence and discourage slothfulness?

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Riches & Poverty

Proverbs on Riches & Poverty

INTRODUCTION:

Problems associated with money and possessions have always been present and will continue as long as this world continues. The Proverbs give timeless advice on materialism, covetousness, poverty, deprivation, liberality and greed. Let us learn and apply the wisdom given on the subject.

I. CHARACTER OF RICHES

- A. Riches help avoid destructive circumstances that the poor cannot avoid (**10:15**).
- B. Riches are deceitful - cannot trust them (**11:28**, **18:11**, **23:4-5**).

II. RICHES ARE NOT EVERYTHING

- A. Unlike earthly riches, God's blessings will make you rich without accompanying sorrows (**10:22, 15:16, 15:17**)
- B. A gracious woman obtains the riches of honor (**11:16, 11:22**)
- C. You can be poor but truly wealthy (**13:7, 13:8**)
- D. Wisdom and understanding are more valuable than gold and silver (**16:16, 20:15, 28:11**)
- E. Poverty with integrity is better than riches with perverseness (**16:8, 16:19, 28:6**)
- F. A good reputation is more valuable than riches (**22:1**)

PROVERBS

Wisdom Literature

PROVERBS: Riches & Poverty