

Introduction:

The God Who made man also made work. Whether someone accepts work as a good thing from God or not will make a big difference. We have met some of the characters in Proverbs in recent weeks (the friend, the fool, the wise, etc). In this lesson we encounter two more, the diligent and the sluggard. They are separated according to their work. Solomon provides many reasons for and examples of God honoring work. He also exposes the problem of laziness.

- What characteristics describe the slothful? (Prov 26:13-16)

Diligence makes a difference in every aspect of life, especially as it relates to our Christian living (Prov 4:23). Victory living will requires hard work.

VICTORY PLAN:

#1 - TRUTH TO YOUTH

#2 - KNOW GOD

#3 - GET WISDOM

#4 - DON'T BE A FOOL

#5 - BE & MAKE FRIENDS

#6 - USE WISE WORDS

#7 - BE DILIGENT

- I. **The Glory of Work** — Rest is not the opposite of work, laziness is. God Who made work also made rest. Jesus explains in Mark, “. . . The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.” Good work will require rest if it is to bring God glory. Work is our gift from God. By it, we can be productive, useful, help others, and honor God. What is the reward for our work? “The reward for faithful hard work is—more work! (Mat 25:21)” - Wiersbe

- How did you discover that work glorifies God? Explain how you have personally benefited from work.

- What are several ways that our hard work can be a help to others?

II. **The Blessing of Work** — Some will miss out on God’s blessings. Work requires energy and effort, but accomplishes great things. People that refuse to be diligent will pay for it. Proverbs unfolds a sharp contrast between the slothful and industrious person.

A. The Sluggard —We will look at four poor-qualities of the slothful.

1. **They will not start things.** What takes priority in the lazy one’s life?
(Prov 6:9-10)
 - a. “a little” _____
 - b. “a little” _____
 - c. “a little” _____

2. **They will not finish things.** When does the slothful’s work stop?
(Prov 12:27; 26:15)

3. **They will not face things.** They are too smart to be so foolish (Prov 26:16). “Because he makes a habit of [making] the soft choice his character suffers as much as his business.” What kinds of excuses does the sluggard come up with? (Prov 20:4; 22:13)

4. **They are restless.** What is the curse of the lazy? (Prov 13:4; 21:25-26)

• Who could the slothful listen to? What should they learn? (Prov 6:6-11)

• What lessons are learned by the thoughtful observer of the sluggard? (Prov 24:30-34)

B. The Diligent — The prospects are bright for the hard worker. Solomon gives the diligent person hope for success (10:4; 14:23). What kind of goal does the hard worker have? (Prov 21:5; 24:27)

Conclusion:

How a Christian views work is a reflection of how he sees God. Hard working people (saved or not) accomplish things. “Thomas Edison said, ‘I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident; they came by work.’ More than one scientific breakthrough seemed to be discovered by accident, but there was still a great deal of hard work put into the project before the breakthrough came. Benjamin Franklin wrote in his Poor Richard’s Almanack, ‘Diligence is the mother of good luck, and God gives all things to industry (Wiersbe).’”

Christians have physical and mental energy as well as the power of the Holy Spirit. Their work in the marketplace and the church demonstrates Christlikeness to one another and the unbeliever.

Have you ever had to depend upon God to do your work? Explain.

How a Christian works is a reflection of their Creator and Savior. Give five suggestions regarding work that you would like to pass on to a Christian young person entering the work-force.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.